

Exit Cards from Candidate forum for District 7 Appointment

Candidate forum co-hosted by Seattle Council PTSA, Beacon Hill International School PTA, John Muir PTA, Kimball PTSA, Friends of Hawthorne, Van Asselt PTA, Mercer Middle School PTSA, South Shore PreK-8 PTA, and Southeast Seattle Education Coalition (SESEC)

31 July 2019

What questions do you still have regarding the appointment process?

District 7, BIPOC and Multiracial

- Why appointment only, What's your process for taking community input? How do you feel community input is a part of the process?
- What happens if no one receives majority of the vote?
- How do we advocate for the candidate we want the board to appoint?
- Will there be a chance for students to meet with you to express their needs?
- How can non-English speaking parents included in this?
- Will all school board members attend the forum at RBHS?
- Why only School Board members could have voting rights but not us?
- We are not the ones voting for the candidates so how can we effect the results?

District 7, White or no race listed

- Dates + time reminders
- What will the directors base their decisions on in the end?
- Betty P. was 3 days away from this process being an election, why not putting this choice in District 7's hands?
- Special education/inclusion services, accountability
- How do you plan on holding other departments accountable to racial equity (through funding) in SPS?
- I am a little confused about the next forum dates – hopefully the FB pages I follow (SESEC/SCPTSA/SPS) will announce the next events with enough warning for me to attend.
- In what ways will district 7 residents' viewpoints inform the appointment?
- Concern that current board will choose "Who is a good fit" vs. "Who will push us."

BIPOC - Outside of District 7 or No District listed

- Wondering how District 7 will truly get a vote in this process. Lots of how D7 people here. We're all invested but should reflect D7.
- Erin + team informed us well – [unknown word] in some folks – they still feel the board will pick who they want.
- I missed the conversation regarding the appointment process, but will make sure to check the district website. It would also be helpful to have a SESEC blog post regarding the appointment process.
- What challenges within school board culture do you see as the biggest barriers to moving SPS strategic plan forward?

White or No race listed - Outside of District 7 or No District listed

- How to push every student succeed?
- What criteria will board members use to note their final decision on the appointment? How will the board members ensure that they center the residents of D7 families and students especially those “farthest from education justice”?
- How will those who do not know the values and needs of SPS How will they be able to act with the urgency our children need and desire.
- I’m wondering about transparency and how community input will be considered?
- I think I understand the process well.

Who would you like to see appointed to the District 7 seat? Why?

District 7 – BIPOC or Multiracial

- Brandon and Jason are my favs!
- Mr Hersey – his experience, connection to District 7 families and their experiences
- Brandon – his connectedness to classroom & knowledge of vulnerable populations
- Dionne, Emijah, or Sofia – clarity of vision, experience with community, level of dedication to the role and the work.
- Julie van Arcken – I would bring deep knowledge of the district and how to get things done with a drive for equity
- Dionne Foster – Her lived experience and explicit commitment to Black, Brown, and Indigenous youth makes her the most qualified. I believe she will center the voices of those who most need support.
- Emijah, Brandon, Sofia
- Great forum and group of candidates! If I could vote: Sofia Voz, experience and clarity on issues
- Julie van Arcken – Knowledgeable, logically, looks at statistical data, served on many committees, involved parent, engaging and cares about her community
- Emijah Smith – Concrete experience to fight for education equity
- Brandon Hersey – Passion – great energy, willingness to learn, deep committee involvement in youth services in south Seattle, experience in policy development, Black male teacher → lived experiences, knows the issues and data
- Emijah – She know more about Asian background. I feel connect and feel that she can do a good job.

District 7 – White or no race listed

- Sofia Voz – Had clear actions/steps and spoke with focus and practical, realistic plans
- Sofia or Emijah – most radical
- Jason Hahn – I think he has the most articulate & specific ideas. It’s clear he is engaged with many diverse communities in Seattle and is committed to key issues of District 7.
- Dionne Foster, Emijah Smith, Sofia Voz
- Dionne Foster – I related to a lot of the same concerns she has on education and community.
- Yes Emijah – she represents our community, she understands our needs
- Dionne or Brandon – Dionne – commitment to student voice, south end resident with lived experience. Brandon – Only one to mention school foods in connection to student success. Excited about centering student voice.

- Dionne Foster, Emijah Smith, Sofia Voz
- Barbara Rockey – She’s highly qualified, sincere, lives in the district, she’s culturally competent
- Sofia, Emijah, Brandon – Sofia – She seems present/intelligent/thoughtful, Emijah – her experience is incredibly impressive to me; she really understands the issues and is passionate, Brandon – his work puts him in a good position to fully understand the job; he seems thoughtful and ambitious
- Brandon Hersey, Sofia Voz, or Dionne Foster – I believe all three have the combination of relevant experience and policy knowledge to support our district and help SPS carry out the strategic plan.
- Dionne Foster, Brandon Hersey, Emijah Smith, or Sofia Voz
- Feel good about Emijah Smith, Brandon Hersey, and Sofia Voz- Mix of passion, knowledge, connections and ideas/plans
- Brandon Hersey, Emijah Smith, Sofia Voz – experience, connection to community, understanding willingness to push and do the hard work.

Outside of D7 – BIPOC

- Emijah Smith – Experience, education passion and a level of dedication that is unparalleled
- Emijah Smith – She understands the need for change and impact, also has a strong connection to the community
- Emijah Smith – sounds like she’ll serve *all* people. Brandon Hersey – Spoke about different funding model
- I’m really grateful to have the opportunity to hear from the D7 school board candidates. The structure of the community conversations gave us the opportunity to have a deeper conversation about what is important to them, why they are the best candidate for D7, and how they will ensure the voices of youth, families, and community are heard at the school board level. I think the candidates were GREAT, but I’d love to see Emijah Smith appointed to the District 7 seat.
- Julie VA, Britany W. – Knowledge, energy, vision
- Sofia, Brandon, Dionne – seemed like most well rounded in community engagement, policy work

Outside of D7 White or No race listed

- Emijah Smith – strong, diversity culture, knowledge
- Emijah Smith or Dionne Foster – Emijah understands and knows SPS, understands targeted universalism, intent on ensuring that strategic plan isn’t just more window dressing. Dionne seems like a great listener, who would get up to speed quickly and work effectively to create consensus on the school board.
- Emijah – She works with different community and it seems she knows where the families and students needs
- Emijah Smith – She is the only one who knows the landscape and district staff. There is an urgency and she helped to develop the strategic plan!
- So many great candidates. Dionne Foster, Emijah Smith, and Sofia Voz stand out as being highly qualified and having connection to the community.
- Emijah Smith – She is ready to do the job with integrity and the passion that she has for kids.
- So hard to choose! All of the candidates have a strong positive vision for the district.