

Community Conversation with District 7 Director Candidates

31 July 2019

These are the questions submitted prior to the event (by 7/30/19). These are starter questions for your pod conversations. The questions may have been slightly edited for readability; no substantive changes were made. Please remember to prioritize District 7 and BIPOCs in your conversations.

District 7 & BIPOC

- What is important to you? Why do you want to represent our district?
- What is the board's plan on improving engagement with communities and families?
- How will you work with families in District 7 to ensure their voices are heard at the School Board level?
- What is your understanding of Seattle's de facto educational segregation and what is your plan for addressing it today? How will you address the racial equity gap and who will you hold accounting for meeting these goals...what will happen if your goals are not met? What do you have to offer the students and families of SE Seattle and how will you get the job done? Why are you the most qualified candidate for this position? What have you done to collaborate with families in SE Seattle? What are your ties to SE Seattle? Why do you want this job?
- Why you, why now?
- How can they make better our schools such as in equity? Are they cultural aware our communities of color? Or work, volunteer before our schools? What makes them to run as Candidate for thus position? Open to listen and be fairness
- How will local youth-serving organizations be included in your plan to support underrepresented students.
- What are your goals while serving district 7? What is your communication style? Why do think you are the best candidate? What projects are you working on? Will you stand up for the needs of the district? Do you actually live in the district? What are your goals to reach out the community? Do speak any other languages besides your native language? How do you propose to fill the gap and level out so not all rich and wealthy have the greatest opportunity?
- How will you support administrators and listen to the teachers and families in your district?
- What is your vision for education in this community (Southeast), What are your priorities for the district 7 in the coming year? What is your own experience with Seattle public education? Do you see yourself primarily as a representative of the community or as a representative of the school system? Do you believe in inclusion?

BIPOC But Not District 7

- How does the placement test work on special Ed? Dept? If student is mis-place, who and where should we go? What type of support does the school provide for student?
- When you're appointed into this role, how will you engage and honor the existing D7 community work already being done and advocate for resources to make things more equitable

and just to the other board members? Do you have an example(s) on how we can work together for our scholars and community?

- Much of the attention goes to K-12. Do you believe there are any qualities in our current model that are currently compromising the quality of educators and pre-k programs? How do you plan on reducing preschool educator turnover? To change the trajectory of a child's life, high-quality pre-K programs should include (fill in the blanks) and how do you expect to include and improve these additional services?
- What's your understanding of why academic performance is predictable along racial lines, with students of color testing lower on District and State assessments and white students testing higher?

What makes you the best representative for Southeast Seattle students and families? What will be your approach as a school board member to bring necessary change to teaching and schooling for Southeast Seattle students?

- What kind of relationship do you have with the current Superintendent? How do you foresee that relationship as a board member?
- How do you plan to engage the district nutrition services to provide nutritious meals that cater to student needs?

District 7 & White or No Answer Re: Race

- How do you plan to engage the district nutrition services to provide nutritious meals that cater to student needs? Some SE schools are overcrowded, while others sit under-enrolled. This is an equity issue. How will you advocate for making changes to existing boundaries to ensure high-quality teaching and learning can take place in all schools?
- In your opinion, how do you distinguish the difference between equality and equity in schools? What small pushes can we make as a community so that students can feel successful on their own terms? What will you do to ensure that our students of color (their success, how they are treated, etc.) is the forefront of our work as a community?
- How would you work to include the youth that you impact's voice in your decision making process if appointed to the board? How would you stand up to unjust decisions being made by others on the board?
- How is school board director different from other elected offices? (why running for this and not City Council?) What is their vision of a high-functioning school board/district relationship?
- Can you speak to "redshirting" and how that's contributing to the education gap. Other states and areas offer early kindergarten and kindergarten which I think would be a great way to address this. What would need to happen for this change to be made in Seattle? Or any other thoughts/ideas for how to address this?
- What do they view as the role of the board/the district in supporting partnerships with community based organizations?
- How are you going to ignore the white noise, and deconstruct the racist system?
- If they plan to engage the community in the multiple boundary decisions being put forward for our district

- If appointed, how will you work to serve families in South Park, none of whom attend District 7 schools and many of whom face a lot of pressure, including food and housing insecurity, lack of documentation, public safety, environmental injustice, etc.?

Non-District 7 & White or No Answer Re: Race

- What is your position on accepting PTA/PTSA/PTO funding to subsidize budgets at specific schools, especially for the purpose of supplementing staffing? Do you consider this practice to be consistent with Board Policy 6114 (Gifts Grants and Donations) and/or Board Policy 0030 (Racial Equity)? If not, what do you see as the School Board's role in regulating, restricting or abolishing this practice?
- How will you help be a bridge for D7 families and central offices/district issues?
- What do you hope is the strongest held belief of a SES resident that votes for you (were they able)?