

EduPAC, Inc.

Promoting Quality School Board Leadership For The Atlanta Public Schools

2011 School Board Candidate Written Questionnaire

Name Byron Amos

District 2

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided by **typing or printing** your responses.

1. Why do you want to serve on the Atlanta Public School Board?

I am a candidate for the Atlanta Public Schools Educational District 2 because I have a vested interest in APS, not only for my children, but for all children. I decided to seek election to this position to help restore trust and integrity in which the community and students have lost.

I also believe that members on the Atlanta Board of Education must work together and develop priorities, policies, and procedures which will be instrumental in restoring trust from the community.

As the legal policy-making entity, the Board of Education must not delegate its authority to establish educational policies to its superintendent or to any other organizational entities in the community.

The Atlanta Board of Education must require that its superintendent establish high quality educational programs which will ensure that all students reach their highest level of academic proficiency. No gimmick or tricks.

Parents must be invited to participate in meaningful roles in the education of their children. The Atlanta Board of Education must welcome community partners who are willing and want to assist with the educational process.

By working together our community can and will rebuild a high quality public school system which present and future students will be proud to attend

2. What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of a school board member?

School board members are given three major roles / responsibilities in the Charter; one, to create educational policy for the School District; two, to make sure that they are fiscal responsible; and three, to hire and/or terminate the Superintendent. I believe that we have a great role to play in the system and that is to be the bridge between it and the stakeholders. Board members should be the face of the District to its stakeholders and be willing to help create education champions amongst their constituents.

3. What changes, if any, should be made to the code of ethics? Please explain.

No changes should be made. I support a strong code of ethics policy for school board members. The Ethics Commission is composed of our peers and its recommendations should be considered heavily and strictly adhered to.

EduPAC, Inc.

Promoting Quality School Board Leadership For The Atlanta Public Schools

4. What would you contribute to the budget/fiscal management of APS?

I will contribute my experience of budget / fiscal management of nonprofit budgets to this school board. I have over 10 years of nonprofit management. Being able to mostly survive off of grants and not having a dedicated funding stream gives you a keen insight in ensuring that every dollar is spent correctly.

5. As a school board member, what would you do to address/improve student achievement?

To improve student achievement we must truly assess how we are spending our monies on the academia provided for our students. Such things as are the reading programs in the schools working? Do the teachers and students utilize textbooks and technology like they should? Are we exposing our children to enough cross curricular educational tools and experiences? Do we as a district properly train and prepare our students for the work force and college lifestyle? There are very important things to look into as a school board because we have to prevent the recent mistake of the cheating scandal from happening again. Furthermore, our teachers as well as parents are concerned with over testing the children. We should have workshops for parents and students to ensure that they know important and relevant test taking skills, but the curriculum taught should not be solely based on CRCT test methods. We should ensure we provide the best learning experiences, curriculum and standard based instruction that connect to real life experiences. If we are unable to do this, then we will continue to fail our children and not improve or increase their achievement.

6. What do you see as the three most important issues facing the Atlanta Public Schools and how would you address these issues?

The first major issue that I see facing APS is not being fully accredited. We as elected officials must do all that it takes to get our system off probation so that our children's secondary education is not put in jeopardy. So I would help lead the charge of building bridges between the system, the community and all stakeholders to ensure that this happens. The second issue is the one which I have termed quality education vs. quality test taking. We must begin to deliver a well rounded diverse education to our students, which is inclusive of math, science, the arts, and vocational skills. I will be a champion of this.

7. If you are elected to represent District 2 on the APS Board, how would you balance the needs of your specific constituents with the needs of the overall school district?

There is only one need of my constituents and of the system and that is to educate our children. Yes, there will be special circumstances that will arise from time to time but the school system should have mechanisms in place to handle any such circumstances. Creating a world class system that is capable of education all in all will be my goal.

EduPAC, Inc.

Promoting Quality School Board Leadership For The Atlanta Public Schools

8. As a school board member, what are the factors on which you would base decisions?

As a school board member I will base my decisions on several factors. This first factor being, is it good for the overall all system? The second one being, is it supported by hard evidence that it works? The third and fourth factors would be can we afford it and did we receive all input from the stakeholders?

9. What is your vision for APS? What would you like to accomplish in your four-year term as an Atlanta School Board member?

I envision a world class education system that has the ability to educate all within it. I envision a system that will help to return the City of Atlanta back to being the leader in the region. In my first two years of service we need to restore trust and integrity to the system, so that our students, parents and stakeholders will be proud to represent the system, be a part of the system and work within and with the system.

10. Against what metrics would you assess district leadership's attainment of key goals? How would you know when a program or decision has been successful?

We should seek out and only implement best practices that have been proven to work. These practices also need to be supported by hard, statistical data. Furthermore, we need to see what has previously worked in the system and continue to use that with enhancements if needed. Once these programs have been established, we should use the same metrics to assess them among the guidelines of our policy. One key thing to address in the assessments of goals is to see if the leadership at each individual schools as goals that line up to fit the needs of the population it services.

11. What information do you have about the Atlanta Public School System, and specifically, District 2? What does this information tell you about what should happen in the school system?

Compared to all other APS schools, District 2 has one of the highest numbers of failing schools and educational problems. We must all work to find a solution to this and to bring all of our schools up to the same standard of excellence. I believe that the schools in District 2 have to keep in mind the population that they service and know that each school is obligated to follow board policies and guidelines, but there must be an expectation, goals and standards set at each individual school within the district specifically to make change happen that is needed for our children.

(Response should be completed above this line)