

## Newberg School Board Candidate Questionnaire May 19, 2015 Election

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**Name: Mindy Allison**

**Zone: 6**

1. Why do you believe that you would be a good member of a School Board? And what called you to run for this position verses other opportunities to run for an elected office *(200 word limit)*?

I believe I would be a good member of the Newberg School Board because three of the things I am passionate about are children, education and our community. I considered running for the board several years ago but the timing was not right for me. When it was brought to my attention that my zone was up for election this year I began researching the possibility of running. The school board and school district is where I feel I can meaningfully contribute to our community in an area that both interests and excites me. I have spent more than a decade helping in classrooms, talking with teachers, parents and students. I have seen, in both others and in my own family, successes and struggles throughout the years when it comes to educating our children. I have a wealth of hands-on experience and am ready to continue to listen, learn and work to improve our school district to be the best it can be. I'm not interested in other elected offices.

2. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the school district today? In the near future? Long term? *(200 words)*

I think there are several challenges facing our school district. Things like the graduation rate, excessive assessments, reaching out to parents and the community, helping all students feel like they belong and can be successful are issues that I would like to work on while serving the school board. Funding is always an issue. I have watched budgets decline while each of my children have entered the school system. We need to be creative in the way we fund education for our children and continue to carefully implement programs that will help students thrive and be ready for life after high school.

3. What has been your process to familiarize yourself with the current priorities of the school board? In what ways do your priorities align or differ? *(200 words)*

Since deciding to run for the school board I have met with Superintendent Kym LeBlanc-Esparza, attended a school board meeting, met with a current school board member and read old minutes from previous school board meetings. I stay current on what is happening

in our school district and enjoy talking with teachers, parents and students to learn what their experience has been.

I really enjoyed attending the board meeting and meeting with Superintendent Kym LeBlanc-Esparza. Our Superintendent has great goals for our school district. I believe she has really identified many vital issues and is working with the board toward achieving higher graduation rates, improved technology and becoming a welcoming school district that meets the needs of our students and their families.

4. Tell us about your experience understanding and working with government budgets or do you have another skill that you feel is valuable to board? (150 words)

I have a B.S. degree in Accounting and Financial Management. I have worked with other boards on non-profit budgets and am currently employed in the accounting field. I feel having an understanding of financial statements and budgets is an essential skill for being a member of the school board. Other skills I possess are having an open mind, being solution-focused versus problem-focused and enjoy working in a team environment.