

Mindy Sutton

EPISD School Board Trustee, District 4

As you read above is our statement of values for public education as the El Paso County Democratic Party. Do you agree with our statement, yes or no. If you do not, please explain.["Yes"]

NA

Question 1: What motivated you to run for the school board, and what are your top priorities

I was motivated to run for school board after experiencing a lack of communication from my current school board member. I and many other parents had reached out to her during the EPISD DDR process and she would not communicate with us. I was highly disappointed in her vote to close schools without considering community input. As a former public school teacher of 20 years, I realized that I could use my experience advocating for students and their families on a much broader spectrum if I am elected into this seat.

My top priorities are to 1) hold the superintendent and administration accountable for decisions and/or plans when it comes to our schools and students. As a board member, I feel like it is my responsibility to make sure our students and their families are made the priority when big decisions are being made. 2) I hope to work with the rest of the board to come up with ideas on how to balance the budget and make sure that our money isn't being spent on unnecessary projects, but rather going to improve our schools and to provide resources for our teachers and students.

Question 2: How do you plan to address educational equity across schools in our district?

I plan to seek out the expertise and experience of the people that live in District 4 of EPISD by having regular community meetings and asking for what they have seen that works and what doesn't work. After going to people's homes while campaigning, I have met so many people with a lot of experience with EPISD - current teachers, retired teachers and lots of parents that have ideas on how our district can ensure equity across the city. I know that the Northeast El Paso has historically been ignored and I want to try and change that legacy. I have experience advocating for people who tend to be ignored or overlooked, so I feel confident that as a board member representing District 4 that I can advocate for our students' and teachers' needs.

Question 3: What is your vision for the role of public education in our community?

I envision our public schools being hubs for our communities in which our students have safe learning environments that also provide a variety of challenging and diverse programs. It is imperative that our public schools be a priority in this community because so many families rely on our public schools for quality education. Many of our schools are nestled in the hearts of neighborhoods and have served generations of families over the years. It is important that we make our public schools a priority locally, now more than ever, with the possible dismantling of the Department of Education.

Question 4: What are your plans to ensure transparency and accountability in your work on the school board?

I plan to work closely with the community, parents, students and teachers in order to advocate for their needs while on the board. I plan to fight inequality when it comes to programs and funding offered to other districts in EPISD to ensure that the Northeast is not forgotten. I plan to hold our superintendent accountable for decisions made by her and the administration so that no one is able to use their status or power against our students, their families and our teachers.

Question 5: What is your stance on charter schools and their impact on public schools?

Charter schools disguise themselves as a positive alternative to public school, but that is not the case at all. Charter schools do not require their teachers to be state certified, resulting in lower quality education, all while siphoning funds from public schools. They are not required to provide accommodations to our special needs population like public schools do, so those children tend to get left behind. The people who fund charter schools promote "school choice" and promote the underfunding of public schools.

Did you attend public schools? ["Yes"]

If applicable: do your children - or did your children - attend public schools?

["Yes"]

Have you received any campaign contributions from charter school supporters such as CREEED? ["No"]

Do you believe in Greg Abbott's Voucher Plan? ["No"]