

Hello TUSD Governing Board Candidates!

As some of you well know there was a time when Tucson newspapers were much bigger and focused more than they do now on local, school board candidates. There also was a time when there would be three or four forums for school board candidates during an election season.

We at CARE do not expect to see that in this election. We feel incredibly lucky to have met with each of you for at extended time, and to get an idea of your various positions. Now we would like to bring your positions to the general voting public. We hope you will answer the following questions--considerably shorter than our initial interview with each of you-- and allow us to post your answers on our website and Facebook page. We ask that you answer in up to 150 words per question--shorter is better!

We would also like to hold a Zoom forum sometime around when ballots drop, as people this year may well be returning mail-in ballots quickly upon receipt. For that forum, we are considering doing a lightning round of questions that each of you would like to ask the other candidates as our final round of questions. If that is something you would like to participate in, please send us a question you would like to see asked at that time (that will not be published on our website, etc.)

We hope you will see this as an opportunity to get the word out about your various positions to the voting community. We will do everything we can to send out your responses to media outlets, and hope that you will do everything you can as well to share the information. We are a diverse group unified by our commitment to TUSD and the value of a qualified governing board.

We ask that all answers be returned to us by September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Name: Natalie Luna Rose**

**Link to Website:** [www.nataliefortusd.com](http://www.nataliefortusd.com)

**Endorsements:**

U.S. Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ron Barber, Former U.S. Congressman  
Regina Romero, Mayor of Tucson  
Jonathan Rothschild, Former Tucson Mayor  
Paul Cunningham, Tucson City Councilmember  
Kristel Foster, TUSD Governing Board President  
Adelita Grijalva, TUSD Governing Board Member

Arizona List  
Tucson Education Association  
Planned Parenthood  
CWA Local 7000  
Save Our Schools Arizona

Contact info if a voter has additional questions: [Natalie.lunarose@gmail.com](mailto:Natalie.lunarose@gmail.com)

**1. A. Evaluate the progress TUSD has made and areas where it is still falling short in achieving benchmarks assigned by the Court toward achieving unitary status. Be specific.**

**B. Has the district earned that right to be free of the burden of needing court approval for major initiatives?**

I support TUSD's commitment to integration, diversity, and racial equity. Each one of their programs, including magnet schools, transportation, family outreach, curriculum, and extracurricular activities, are all designed to fulfill this commitment.

What is most critical, in the legacy of this desegregation lawsuit, is that our community elect a school board that shares the values in this work and when federal oversight ends, that local oversight keeps district leadership committed and focused on the goals of racial integration, academic achievement and fair and just discipline policies for students of color.

**2. A. Have you heard stories of problems with the HR department? Would you support the idea of an audit?**

**B. Would you be willing to sponsor a proposal for an HR audit?**

As an incoming Board member, I will have a lot to learn about the different departments, like HR, and the directors who lead this work. It would not be responsible at this time to commit to any audits of any departments without understanding the breath of the work, the challenges they face during this time, and both sides of any stories or problems you are eluding to with this question.

**3. A. Do you believe the district needs to reform the way principals and other administrators are selected and/or evaluated?**

**B. If so, how? What performance factors should carry the most weight?**

I understand that there is a new principal evaluation instrument being developed at this time, and if it is approved by the current Board, the new Board should commit to seeing how these adjustments work. I commit to learning more about what experts in the field recommend from such organizations at ASCD, NAESP and NASSP.

**4. Evaluate the actions of the current Governing Board. What action or actions were their greatest achievements in the last four years? What actions do you wish they had taken but did not take?**

I think TUSD is moving in the right direction. They have excelled in culturally relevant pedagogy (ethnic studies), restorative justice and dual language instruction. The partnership with JTED is strong and working with the Red for Ed movement has helped the District as leaders in the state in fighting for reinvestment in teachers and our students.

**5. What does TUSD need to do to stop the loss of enrollment?**

Charter schools are a threat to traditional public schools. The marketing message is that, "they are better". Achievement data proves they are not. What they do have is better marketing. I would like to focus on what is good at TUSD. I am tired of the negative. The

public needs to know about the terrific programs TUSD offers students. Our marketing should focus on programs such as unique Culturally Relevant Classes, schools that offer dual language , JTED, GATE , OMA, and our gardening program that is the only one in Pima County that has students growing food to be served in their own cafeterias.

#### **6. What does TUSD need to do to help retain teachers and staff?**

I believe all teachers and staff deserve to have a salary that reflects the dedication they have invested in our students. However, it is apparent that initiatives such as the "Invest in Ed" highlight the dire need for adequate funding in our schools. Every Arizonan who cares about education should be contacting our Legislature, and standing against the fiscal neglect that continues to keep Arizona ranked 49th in education and drive good teachers out of the profession.

At the district level, the best way to address this issue through the pay scale. In addition to better working conditions, which can include a more flexible schedule, like a 4-day workweek, 10 hr. days, etc. We also need to consider staff moral and enact policies or new programs that make the employees feel that they are truly a part of the district and not just a cog in the machine.

#### **7. What do you know about issues facing subs? Do you think full-time subs should be treated more equitably (i.e. access to benefits, compensation, etc.) relative to other full-time TUSD employees?**

Substitutes teachers are part of what helps any district run efficiently. However, I am not familiar enough with this issue but I do believe all employees should be treated and compensated fairly.

#### **8. What does accountability in TUSD look like to you?**

By instilling trust and financial transparency, open communication, and sharing our many successes, the public know their children are receiving the best education and services possible.