

Coalition for Bilingual Education (CBEE) and Austin Area Association for Bilingual Education (AAABE) Austin ISD Trustee Candidate Forum

Please write your response to each question below and submit by

Wednesday September 30, 2020

2020 Written Response Questions:

1. What do you believe is the role of the Dual Language program in Austin ISD? What do you think are the benefits and challenges?

*Dual language helps students excel academically while becoming bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.*

2. The role of principals and associate superintendents and their commitment to DL is critical.

What is the role of the board in regards to oversight and accountability of dual language program administration? *Teachers, Principals, Administration and board should all be working toward the same goal of high quality dual language programs in our schools. The board's oversight and accountability comes through in districts scorecard and any other metric determined by the school board.*

3. Some AISD schools do not offer a dual language program to emergent bilinguals, also called English learners ("ELs"), at their school, though state law requires that ELs be provided with Spanish-language instruction. What are your thoughts around revising transportation solutions for ELs whose home school does not offer a dual language program?

*I support finding solutions so our students can receive this instruction.*

4. As a School Board Trustee, you must not overstep administrative functions that belong to the Superintendent, but having a general understanding of how the district works and what the district offers to our students is essential. Please share what your understanding is about the different bilingual programs being offered to our students in AISD. What is your opinion about these programs? Please explain.

*Dual language is a model of intentional instruction for biliteracy, biculturalism, bilingualism. My understanding is we have various versions of this on many campuses: Dual Language 1, Dual Language 2 and ESL.*

*I support these programs across the district.*

2020 Commitment Questions: If no, please explain.

1. Will you commit to supporting the implementation of DL programs at all AISD elementary schools (with sufficient numbers of ELs) to the 5th grade, and wherever possible, through high school? *If we have the teaching staff and budget, yes-I support this initiative.*

2. Are you committed as a trustee to look at long-term testing results and other indicators of student success and not just annual state testing results during the elementary years as a measure of academic success of EL students in DL? *YES*

3. Will you commit to the support of the strong and successful implementation of dual language programs even if that means: (1) having to prioritize DL programs in budgeting, (2) having tough conversations and (3)

being creative around any challenges that may come up? *The district will be in tremendous financial struggle next year. I can commit to being creative and having tough conversations.*

4. Will you commit to ensuring monitoring of the fidelity of implementation of bilingual programs in AISD, including prior to expansion or cancellation? *Yes.*

5. Will you commit to meet with our Austin ISD EL constituency, attend Multilingual Education Advisory Committee Meetings at times, and/or make efforts to educate yourself further at conferences (such as TABE, NABE, or Adelante) to better understand and advocate for Dual Language and bilingual education? *Yes.*