

**2021 DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please complete this questionnaire by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 and submit your completed questionnaire via email to tpaone@isea.org. You may use a separate file or attachment for your answers. All candidate questionnaires shall be converted to a PDF file and made available on the Davenport Education Association's web page and social media posts, irrespective of whether you receive the DEA's recommendation or not. Any candidate who does not turn in a completed questionnaire by the date and time requested shall not be considered a viable candidate for recommendation. Your signature and date below indicate you understand these conditions.

Farrah N. Powell

(Candidate's name - please print)

Farrah N. Powell

(Candidate's signature)

09/25/2021

(Date)

1. (CHALLENGER) Tell us a bit about yourself, your background/experience, and your connection and/or interest in the Davenport Schools. What are your reasons for seeking this position?

My name is Farrah, I've lived my entire life right here in Davenport and along with all of my siblings attended Davenport Public Schools. I have 4 children in which 2 are currently students and the other 2 graduated. My oldest son graduated this past spring from Iowa Central and is currently attending the University of Iowa to become a Sports Physician. My 2nd eldest son currently attends West High School with an active IEP and is considering a career as a Chef. My youngest is currently attending Williams Jr. High and has plans to become a Pediatric Specialty Physician. All of my children attended Jefferson Elementary, Williams Jr. High, and West HS. I'm a graduate of St. Ambrose, and currently work in Procurement for the Department of Defense.

(INCUMBENT) What are your reasons for seeking reelection?

N/A

2. What are some major issues that you believe our school district is currently facing and how would you like the district to deal with those issues?

My background is in contract negotiations, process development, conflict resolution, and they all generally give me the challenge of looking from different angles to figure out a rational compromise. All of those things are needed in our district, the more we align things the better outcome we will have. Yes, it is easier said than done, but it will take work and effort from everyone. I think the administrators need to get more involved with those at the schools. Find out face to face directly what their struggles are and this should include the kids. I'm not a fan of surveys or large group meetings, this is something that can be broken out into sessions. I also have concerns with allocation of the budget, I'd like to look at that a little closer.

3. What is your perception of the relationship between staff and administration throughout the district? How would you characterize the leadership of the superintendent and other district and building administrators regarding engagement of staff, the DEA and the community at large?
My perception is that there is a disconnect and has been for some time. There is an old saying that goes: "It takes a village to raise a child", for me administration, staff, and parents along with a multitude of other entities are the village. If things aren't aligned then they become dysfunctional and the goal is never achieved.
4. Do you think a teacher's or employee's pay or evaluations should be tied to student scores on standardized tests? What elements do you believe should be part of a teacher's or employee's performance evaluation?
This question is tough because as a working adult I want to say yes, however I am not a teacher. There are so many variables in determining based on student scores to really utilize that in my opinion. But there does need to be some accountability and a way to benchmark goals. I will have to think some more on what would be appropriate or potential options.
5. Do you support or oppose maintaining a comprehensive master contract for all employee groups that includes all legal items that were previously included in the contract under the pre-2017 collective bargaining agreement?
No, I don't oppose anything that could be referenced or as a guideline to success or failures. Contract negotiations are designed to find a common ground, give and take from all involved.
6. How important is planning time for teachers in improving student learning? Do you think that teachers in the Davenport School District have enough, too little, or too much planning time at the elementary, middle and high school levels?
I don't feel they have enough. Each and every student learns differently so that takes time and should not be rushed or left without review. I also think if that time is allotted there should be something in place to ensure we have forward movement.

7. Do you support or oppose a future ballot initiative to renew the SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) fund 1¢ sales tax for infrastructure needs of the Davenport Community School District (DCSD)? **I'd support it, it is a future ballot initiative, I mentioned previously about getting aligned. How do you get aligned if you're not utilizing all of the outlets to know where everyone stands.**

8. Tell us the current status of your campaign and future plans and strategies including any groups or efforts you are affiliated with a vested interest in the outcome of the school board election. **At this time the only thing I can speak to is my own ideas and goals. I'd like to see more input from our teachers and the students. That has been huge for me over the last decade in the district, the teacher relationships with everyone.**

9. As we look to the future, do you support or oppose following CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommendations for students and staff health and safety for in-person learning environments? **I've been torn about this for some time. All I can say is if the data shows our kids are at risk and masks are what is needed, I can't really debate it.**

10. Why do you think the Davenport Education Association should support you? **I'm a mother with students currently in the district, I've been a single parent, a 2 parent household, I come from a diverse background, and we need to change the path of things. A new set of eyes and a voice can do a lot if it is the right one and I believe I have it. I've explained above my take on everything I would say in this section, ultimately I plan to dig in and come up with new ideas to move things forward for everyone.**