

# 2021 School Board Candidate Questionnaire

## Responses from Ibn Bailey

### **Briefly tell us about yourself and what motivates you to run to be a member of the School Board.**

My name is Ibn Bailey. My family and I have lived in Juneau for almost 30 years. I'm also a parent to a senior at JDHS and an uncle to nieces and a nephew that are either in the district or soon to enter the district. I have a vested interest, not only in their future education experience but those of other students and their families. I've decided to run for the school board as I believe my unique perspective and experience will work well to serve the students and families of Juneau. Learning begins well before a student enters a classroom and is a lifelong experience.

### **What do you see as the major issues facing the School District and how will you address these issues during your term?**

Equity in education, military dependent program development, supporting children in transition (food/shelter/medical) uncertainty, strengthening community partnerships and relationships, and a more robust supports for families with children with disabilities. I would address these particular areas by supporting ongoing efforts already in place by the board/district. As well as seeking out key stakeholders and community partners in those areas that need further support.

### **How do you rate public education in the Juneau School District, and how do you believe the public rates it?**

I'd rate the district as satisfactory. I believe that the public would rank the district the same, there is always room for improvement.

### **Who do you contact when you need to gather information concerning education issues?**

The current Juneau School Board.

### **What other public or private agencies would you collaborate with when making policy decisions for public education?**

Juneau Community Foundation, USCG family liaison, JEDC, Zach Gordan Youth Center, SAIL/ORCA, Food Bank, Filipino Community, Helping Hands, REACH Inc., to name a few.

### **What do you identify as the top diversity issues affecting student success in our school district, and how would you address them?**

The first would be the recruitment and retention of qualified BIPOC administrative/teaching staff; and 2) Providing staff with the ongoing training opportunities and community partnerships to better prepare staff in working with students and families of various backgrounds and experiences.

**What type of professional development do you support to ensure employee growth and success among teachers and support staff?**

Ongoing teacher to teacher mentoring/relevant and timely training opportunities for new and current teachers and support staff.

**Do you support public employee unions, collective bargaining, and the right to strike? Why or why not?**

Yes. I believe unions can speak best to the interest and concerns of their members with a unified voice.

**Do you believe teachers in our school district are fairly compensated? Explain**

Not sure.

**Do you believe the support professionals in our school district are fairly compensated? Explain.**

Not sure.

**What do you see as the role of School Board as it relates to the day-to-day operations of the district?**

To ensure a quality and equitable education experience for all district students. This means that the board works closely with the Superintendent to ensure that all federal and state constitutions, laws and mandates are being met.

**As a school board member, what will you do to ensure effective communication between the School District and Borough Leadership?**

Working with relevant data and timely information and not solely relying on personal thoughts, ideas and opinions.

**In light of the state's finances and cuts to education funding, what would be your priorities for cutting and/or maintaining the budget and programs provided by our school district?**

Making sure that any cuts are not disproportionately effecting the social well being and educational opportunities of any specific group of students in order to benefit other students.

**What is your approach to attracting and retaining quality education employees?**

Culturally relevant and data informed training opportunities; career advancement opportunities inside the district; ongoing mentoring for new/current staff including placed based instruction and culturally relevant pedagogy.

**Which member of the current school board most represents your views, and explain why?**

Emil Mackey. Mr. Mackey is the most accessible and visible member of the board I've come to know. He is always willing to answer questions and receptive to community feedback.

**How well do you feel the current school board has addressed the issues pertaining to education in the world of Covid-19? What do you see as having been successful, what would you change?**

Adequate. This is new to everyone and expected by no one. Success for the district include: Freed and reduced lunches/breakfast for all students, the chrome-book distribution for students, remote learning, increased connectivity and broadband accessibility for students and families.

**Information concerning your campaign: a. Who is supporting your campaign? b. How much money do you plan to spend? c. What means of campaigning are you planning to do?**

A) The Juneau Central Labor Council (AFL/CIO), Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition, the Juneau Black Awareness Association, various local businesses, families and friends throughout the the community. B) Under \$500 and all self funded. My campaign isn't accepting monetary donations and has asked potential donors to look at donating to any of the local non profit/charitable organizations that could put such funds to use for the community. C) Virtual meet and greets, interviews with various news outlets, limited literature distribution groups and signage throughout Juneau.

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