

PAULA LEWIS, CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRPERSON

1. What do you believe is the role of a School Board member?

A school board is responsible for establishing district policies, hiring and managing a Superintendent, and oversight of the districts budget. The Chair has those responsibilities as well as setting the agenda, creating and appointing members to committees, building relationships with stakeholders and community partners and fostering quality, productive communication among school board members.

2. If elected to the Oklahoma City School Board, what will be your priorities?

If re-elected, I will continue to work towards Superintendent stability by fostering good board management and communication with the superintendent. I will continue to support transparency and accountability to stakeholders and community and support Embrace OKC. The district is currently addressing equity via policy and I want to be a voice to support conversations around implicit bias, systemic racism and why we need culturally responsive leadership as well as diversity of leaders. The end goal being to provide access to education for every student by removing barriers as an educated work force is good for our city. Teacher and staff support and training is also needed to hire and retain high quality teachers in every school, I will continue to champion improvements in how we care for and support OKCPS employees.

3. What can do to improve academic performance and prepare students for work or higher education?

The board and I must provide oversight to how the district is carrying out the Equity Policy. We must monitor and require a budget that will provide each student and staff what they need to remove barriers associated the challenges that our students face in order to provide access to a quality education. We must set goals for the superintendent that will focus the trajectory of the district towards improving academic success and thus graduating a Senior that is job and/or college ready. The board and the district should maintain and grow relationships with vo-techs, colleges and universities to provide opportunities that are meaningful to students. I will continue to support the growth of birth-3 programs in our schools and to enhance our pre-k programs to have students reading ready when they enter kindergarten. We will see students prepared for work and higher education by supporting our programs that are designed to remove barriers, provide early education, creating partnerships that improve opportunity for students, and by monitoring academic outcomes via the superintendent.

4. Should OKC Public Schools make Pre-K and Kindergarten available for all children that want to attend?

Yes

5. Do you support continuation of existing charter schools within the OKC Public Schools service area?

Yes

6. Do you support development of new charter schools within the OKC Public Schools?

Maybe

7. Do you believe Oklahoma City Public schools should support creation and utilization of Tax Increment Financing to support economic development?

Yes