

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Attention:

Mr. John Croisant, Mr. Calvin Moniz, Ms. Teresa Peña, Ms. Maria Seidler, Ms. Sarah Smith

Dear Candidates,

As pastors and leaders of ACTION, we would like to thank you again for committing to attend the ACTION Tulsa Public School Board Accountability Session on Saturday, January 27 at 2pm at the Allen Chapman Student Union (3135 E Fifth Pl, Tulsa, OK 74104).

ACTION is an interfaith broad-based organization of Tulsa area churches, congregations, and non-profits with a history of successful community organizing in Tulsa. ACTION is **non-partisan** and **does not endorse candidates**, therefore we ask that you and your supporters not bring campaign materials, t-shirts, or buttons on the premises. We ask all candidates to refrain from attacks on or discussing the positions of your opponents.

As we have indicated previously, ACTION leaders will ask you to respond to the ACTION Agenda of Issues which we have developed through meetings in the community. We organize within institutions to develop an agenda of issues and work to ensure political capacity is marshaled to successfully resolve community concerns. At this session the organization will launch its non-partisan GOTV efforts.

Attached are brief descriptions of each issue and the questions we will be asking as well as a parking map. Please arrive at the Student Union at 1:45 for a final briefing and to get settled in before the meeting starts at 2pm. We will hold spaces for you to park in the Union Parking lot.

Please contact Emilee Bounds, Senior Organizer, or your designated leader contact if you have any questions.

Thank you again for your commitment to run for public office, and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday at 1:45pm.

Respectfully,

Rev. Kelli Driscoll Crews  
ACTION Clergy Organizer

Christy Emig  
All Souls Unitarian

Lynn Minden  
Tulsa Lutherans in ACTION

Bobbie Henderson  
Fellowship Congregational UCC

Gail Hawk  
Hope Unitarian Church

Rev. Kathy Brown  
St. Paul's United Methodist



ACTION Tulsa Public School Board Accountability Session  
Education Agenda of Issues  
Candidate Information Sheet

**ABSENTEEISM**

22% of students in Tulsa Public Schools are chronically absent, missing 15 days of school or more. Absenteeism not only impacts a student's ability to learn and educational outcomes, but also impacts state funding to our schools. Transportation and Mental Health issues are impacting absenteeism.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Currently, elementary students in Tulsa Public Schools are eligible for bus service if they live farther than 1.5 miles from their schools. The distance increases to 2 miles for middle and high schools. While recommended walking distances vary, these distances are at least half a mile outside of standard practices. Additionally, we heard stories of children running across busy streets to get to school without crossing guards.

- 1. If elected, will you work with ACTION to decrease bus radiuses by half a mile to 1 mile for elementary students and 1.5 miles for middle and high school students? Yes or no.**
- 2. If elected, will you work with ACTION and the City of Tulsa to ensure that busy streets where students walk to school have crossing guards, starting with 21st street across from MacArthur Elementary and Hale Middle and High Schools? Yes or no.**

**You will have 60 seconds to respond.**

**MENTAL HEALTH**

We consistently heard from teachers, parents, administrators, and mental health professionals that our students are dealing with behavioral health challenges at greater levels than in a pre-pandemic world. Recent mental health data indicates that crisis calls for students in TPS have increased exponentially from this time last year.

- 3. If elected, will you work with us to develop a mental health student advisory board to better understand the mental and behavioral health needs of students with a focus on peer-to-peer prevention? Yes or no.**

**You will have 45 to seconds to respond.**

## **TEACHER SUPPORT**

We consistently heard from teachers the need for smaller class sizes. This will allow teachers to better serve their students' learning and behavioral needs as well as engage with parents. Classroom size caps from the State Department of Education are 20 for kindergarten through sixth grade and 140 per teacher in a six-hour period for seventh through twelfth. We have heard stories of kindergarten class sizes of 30 students, third through fifth grades with as many as 33, and a fourth-grade class of 45.

- 4. If elected, will you work with ACTION to strategize to incrementally decrease class sizes to State Department recommendations?**

**You will have 45 seconds to respond.**

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

Students and teachers told us countless stories of fights in hallways, bullying, teachers getting hurt, and fear of gun violence in schools. Last year Senate Bill 100 passed the Oklahoma State Legislature with bipartisan support that mandates school safety assessments every 5 years and provides funds to remedy issues found in the assessments.

- 5. If elected, will you agree to work with us to utilize resources from Senate Bill 100 to prioritize safety assessments with the Department of Public Safety and implement recommendations for each school in your district? Yes or no.**

**You will have 45 seconds to respond.**

If elected, will you agree to meet with us within your first 100 days of office so that we can get to work on these issues together? Please, just a Yes or no answer.

# PARKING MAP

**Allen Chapman Student Union  
|3135 E 5th Pl**

**2 - 3 P.M.**

**ARRIVE 15 MIN  
EARLY**

