

# General Election - HPS School Board

## Candidate Questions

Erick Espinoza

### **What are your top three priorities for the HPS Board of Education?**

My top three priorities for the HPS Board of Education are: advocating for representation for the 25% of students that are Hispanic/Latino, ensuring the highest quality of education for every student in our district, and supporting educators at the highest level to ensure the success of each student in our district.

### **Early childhood education programs lay crucial groundwork for students throughout their K-12 journey. As a member of the HPS School Board, how would you suggest improving our children's early educational experiences?**

As a parent of a toddler, I have experienced firsthand how crucial early childhood education is to children's development. As a member of the HPS School Board, I would suggest increasing availability to early childhood education programs by supporting workers in this field with fair wages and access to continuing education opportunities. There is a crucial deficit in accessibility to quality childcare in our community, which impacts the workforce and families.

### **With budgets being tight, what strategies do you suggest to reduce spending while ensuring that the quality of education remains high for all students?**

Budgetary issues will always be a concern, but I believe that the district can utilize funds responsibly while not limiting educational or extra-curricular opportunities. I would suggest looking at each budget line item for ways to cut spending that would not impact educators or students. I would also encourage grant opportunities at the state and federal levels, and other opportunities for additional revenue streams.

### **What other potential areas for collaboration between the HPS School Board and local organizations would you endorse?**



Many local organizations could offer potential opportunities for collaboration. Partnerships, especially with nonprofit organizations such as United Way, STARS, and the local Collaborative, offer excellent resources for students in our community. Nonprofit organizations offer support for families who are struggling and can help stabilize families, which in turn helps students and teachers in the classroom.

**What relevant experiences or education do you have that would make you a strong fit for this position?**

I am a father to two children; Jameson, an 8th grade student at Hastings Middle School, and Noemi, a 3-year-old who will attend Hastings Public Schools when she is able to. I graduated from Hastings High School in 2013, and I have seen firsthand the power of our district, and the incredible impact that our schools can have on families. Hastings Public School has excellent staff and teachers who push students to be their best, and I am fortunate to have had teachers help to shape me into the person I am today.

