

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS –SubDistrict 9

Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan (Nonpartisan)	Question	Sarah Brumfield (Republican)
2-25-13	Date Filed	2/19/13
3/2/2013, 7:17pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/7/2013, 8:26pm, candidate said to email questionnaire; 3/7/2013, 8:37pm, emailed questionnaire; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013, 6:49pm, reminder email of 3/14/13 deadline; 3/16/2013, 6:50pm, candidate will working on questionnaire and will send in; 3/18/2013, 4:22pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.	Contact Info	3/2/2013, 7:17pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/7/2013, 8:40pm, candidate said to email questionnaire; 3/7/2013, 8:51pm, emailed questionnaire (wrong attachment); 3/10/2013, 9:48am, emailed questionnaire; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/11/2013, 6:23pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.
Virgil and I were both raised in south Omaha and just celebrated our 35th Anniversary. We have 4 children and 17 grandchildren. In a day and age that all elected officials must express transparency in their lives in and outside of religion. We are Born-Again Christians who attend a home church weekly. We feel we are free to visit any church from time to time throughout the Omaha area. I do not have a website.	01 Biographical	Spouse: TJ, Children: 1, Occupation: Admin Assistant, Employer: Help System Services, Education: B.S. Biology and Minor in Native American Studies, UNO, 2008, Church: Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
As a child and community advocate, many times I have been asked to help a child in the OPS school system concerning their problems and concerns. I also have been a security guard for OPS in the past, so I know some of their accomplishments along with some of their failures. When the State Legislature reconfigured the school board, I feel this was the time to throw in my hat.	02 Motivation	I wanted to have a more active role in my daughter's education. She currently attends Liberty Elementary. I saw that a change was needed on the OPS Board; that is why I ran last year and why I am running again. I set forth goals I would like to accomplish, but have not yet had the time to reach any of those goals. I would like to see more parent involvement. The trend of parents blaming teachers while not taking a hard look at how they raise their children is very concerning. Education does not end when the bell rings. I want to see more transparency in the decisions the board is making. All of our meeting agendas and minutes are available online, but it is not very easy to navigate to and often times confusing. Overall, I want to see greater student performance. There are many factors that contribute to this. One of which is the hiring of great teachers. Currently OPS hires later than any other district, which often results in those great teachers going elsewhere.
Transparency, local responsibility and parent's rights have been a passion of mine for a long time.	03 Qualifications	I have served on the board since January and have an understanding of how things work. I am a taxpayer. I am a mother of a child in OPS.
I honestly believe that global or national standards leave no room for local voice and standards. Although it is important to remember God's earth was created for us and not the other way around. We (citizens) must tend it for our generations to come; a government mandate for green policy only creates more bureaucracy for more spending .	04 Sustainable Development	[not answered]
Open policies are always the best way. I believe transparency in all aspects of education on both sides.	05 Superintendent and School Board	It is the duty of the school board to make decisions, and the role of the superintendent to enforce those decisions. If the constituents disagree with what the superintendent is doing, they are free to contact me and express their concerns.
I disagree with nat'l standards, these may be used as a guideline but our curriculum should be set by state and local standards with community input.	06 Nationalized Standards	[not answered]
Teaching to the test from what I hear, consists of two separate tests, one at the beginning of the school year based on the child's last year grade level knowledge, to see what he or she retained. Then they compare it to what the curriculum standard is. Then they try to teach to that second test, in order to get them to pass it. I believe that the child should learn all steps to the question, and then test. Not to only answer the question but to apply the lesson. They should be taught to achieve over and beyond by learning steps to attain the right answer. Phonics is always best teaching, especially when comparing it to Whole Language is learning the life-lesson to achieve over and beyond.	07 State Standards	[not answered]
Schools must always put parent's rights first when introducing sex education, making sure that they may opt their child out by permission slip in their native tongue. It is the Parents Right to address these issues. They must remember that children belong to the parent(s) and it is their initial responsibility to address this issue or not with the school. The State of Nebraska has placed a child's right to be seen for STD without parental notification, this is the first step into taking a parental right away. Parents were asleep at the wheel when this came to the floor. Lack of Transparency may have been the culprit when this was passed. I believe it was hidden in another bill I was told. OPS did send a notification form for parents to sign at the beginning of the school year stating, please sign if you the parent would allow children to be seen in School Based Health Clinics. These notification forms again should be sent home in native languages, because parents that are non-English speaking may think that their child will be getting band aids instead of condoms or birth control at these clinics.	08 Abstinence, Contraceptives	[not answered]
If they teach Evolution then they need to also teach the criticisms of the theory. All information always leads to better understanding for decision making.	09 Scientifically Criticize Evolutionary Theory	[not answered]
Yes, debate lets all sides be heard. It is the American Way of Life.	10 Global Warming	[not answered]
America belongs to all Races and Creeds. Religious Freedom is one of our basic rights to its citizens. Therefore the class room must not be converted to one or another's religious beliefs or conviction. Interruption to the classroom or school may be handled by rules set by school board. They may give certain allowances to respect religious events by separating themselves at certain times, without reproach. The school district must have guidelines and must be fully understood by all parents at the beginning of the year, again in their own language.	11 Religious Freedom	[not answered]

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS –SubDistrict 7

Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan (Nonpartisan)	Question	Sarah Brumfield (Republican)
Social Issues such as Sexual Behaviors should be taught to College Students, their minds have matured enough to make their own decisions. Sexual Issues I believe may have too much information, be slanted by the teacher or District and may be detrimental to the child's mind and may contradict their family beliefs. Their minds are still forming therefore the parents should have this control on how they want to mold their child. The classroom should never be the facility to mold social issues such as sexual behavior. I believe that Biology according to age is appropriate without too much information. Beliefs and Values are items for families to decide in the home.		12 Lifestyles [not answered]
State Formulas should always follow the child and school that they are attending. Taxes are being collected and should be evenly distributed where their child is being taught. Whether they are in a public, private, charter or home school, the child is still being taught and monies are being collected to help them. The child must have the necessary tools for higher achievement in Nebraska, where ever. Sadly, I believe that Public Schools must be doing something wrong or not enough because families are leaving to other educational institutions for their children.		13 Education Support [not answered]
I have family that are Para Professionals and a Janitor in the OPS District.	14 Education Business Connection	[not answered]
Yes, I have already signed the petition.	15 Parental Rights Amendment	[not answered]
Yes, I have read the Constitution of the USA and have read it many times in my life. I have the freedoms that you and I have been taught since childhood, and should help distribute equity in education within the school district to bless all the children, God Bless America!		16 Governing documents [not answered]
I will have an open door policy when elected and a concern page on OPS website.	17 Constituents' concerns	My contact information - email, district phone number and personal cell phone number are all public on OPS' website. I welcome any and all contact from constituents. I also have a website, Facebook and Twitter account to which concerns and questions can also be sent.
Praying with my husband Virgil has always been my first step in every move. The Bible says in Proverbs 16:3; Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.		18 Family My husband has remained very supportive of my seeking this office again.
I am who I am and I believe all my decisions are guided for my love for Jesus Christ my Lord.	19 Personal/Political	[not answered]
I research all literature to gain wisdom to make decisions.	20 Political decisions	[not answered]
A.) Pro-Life is protection to a child in the womb, whom God created at the moment of conception. B.) Pro-Choice is death to a child at the moment of conception or any other stage in the womb. I am Pro-Life and have will not vote for anyone that strikes their voice or pen to a pro-choice stance! Capital Punishment is a consequence set by the people for their wrong deeds against the community.		21 Abortion/capital punishment [not answered]
Pro-Life Stance #1 (Without life there are NO other issues!)		22 Past President [not answered]
Greetings, My name is Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan, as you know I have placed my name on file at the Douglas County Election Commission for the position of OPS Sub-district 9. As a candidate for this position I am vying for this position, for the students and their educational needs. I am neither looking for endorsements nor financing for my campaign at this time. According to the Policies and Regulations of the DCSD #0001 OPS, reprinted on February 2013, it states that the mission of the Omaha Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities which enable all students to achieve their highest potential. Its educational aims are for high student achievement. This will be met by maintaining high academic standards and expectations for all students by providing assistance which is appropriate for each student. Also, a safe and secure learning environment is an essential component in enabling students to achieve their highest potential. These are my main purposes in running for the OPS Sub District 9. I feel I am the best candidate for Omaha School Board because I know my district. I was born and raised by immigrant parents, therefore I can relate to issues concerning low income families of D-9. I attended RM Marrs Elementary and graduated from Omaha South High School. Some of my own children attended Springlake and at this time, one of my grandsons attends an OPS school. As a Security Officer for Castelar Academy, I always went the extra mile with the kids to see they were safe and excelled. Our family started an Anti-Gang & Graffiti Program called 'This Is Your Neighborhood' for the south Omaha 4th grade students. This program has been presented to all of the schools in District 9. My main passions are my beautiful 17 grandchildren and helping them build their gifts and talents. This has built my advocacy for children in general. Also, Quality of life in south Omaha for child safety, community health, and environmental issues has been my drive and through this advocacy, Burlington Road Neighborhood Association was birthed. My husband, Virgil Patlan Co-Founder of BRNA and I have shared these efforts equally. Another one of my passions are writing children's books, volunteering to read to elementary children that bring out their imagination and creativity. I feel I give them another tool to help them in their reading and writing abilities. I have invested much of my life already in this district, now I would like to serve my community further by being elected to the Board of Education, for all children. I already have the heart for the children, dedication to the task and integrity to the mission. My position on this board will be a positive step for Sub District 9 and its success. Please encourage your family and friends to vote! Respectfully, For the Kids & Community Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan Candidate for OPS Subdistrict 9		23 Anything else? [not answered]
married, Spouse: Virgil J. Patlan Sr., #of children: 4, High School: Omaha South High, College: Iowa Western CC, Church: Christian, Professional Associations: Burlington Road Neighborhood Association, Civic Groups: Douglas County Local Emergency Planning Committee, This Is Your Neighborhood Anti-Gang & Graffiti, Neb. Heart for Missing Children DBA A Hand to Hold,	Extra biographical	married, Spouse: TJ, #of children: 1, High School: Ralston, College: University of Nebraska at Omaha, Degrees: BS Biology; Minor in Native American Studies, Church: Kountze Memorial Lutheran, Employer: Help System Services, www.brumfieldforops.com

See next page for actual questions asked.

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD Questions

Question Key	Actual Questions asked. “*’d” questions offered as minimums to answer
Date Filed	The date the candidate officially filed with the County election office.
Contact Info	Contact Information - ranging from the details of when we inputted the candidate's responses, to attempts to establish contact, to if we still need a volunteer caller, to if the candidate is unopposed and therefore not on the list to contact.
01 Biographical	*Please include biographical information, e.g. family members, church affiliation, employment, etc., you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.
02 Motivation	*What has motivated you to seek this office? Is there a key issue you hope to address?
03 Qualifications	*What three primary qualifications do you bring to this office?
04 Sustainable Development	* Discuss how the sustainable development presented in the UN Agenda 21 comprehensive plan can be a benefit or detriment to the citizens. What do you believe should be the government's role in establishing green policy?
05 Superintendent and School Board	How do you view the check and balance relationships between the superintendent and the school board? How do you picture representing the interests of the constituents if they differ with the superintendent's?
06 Nationalized Standards	*Some are pushing for nationalized learning standards (federal curriculum) and assessment systems. Do you agree or disagree with that idea? Why?
07 State Standards	Discuss the various curriculum standards that the State Board of Education has been working on. What is your thinking concerning the “teaching to the test” approach?
08 Abstinence, Contraceptives	Should schools teach abstinence-only sex education? Why or why not? Should schools teach about contraceptive use?
09 Scientifically Criticize Evolutionary Theory	*Should teachers be required to include scientific criticisms of evolutionary theory in their science curriculum? Why or why not?
10 Global Warming	Should curriculum include debate as to whether global warming exists, is man-caused, or part of the cycles of nature?
11 Religious Freedom	Should Muslim students have freedom to pray at specified times? Should Christian students have freedom to pray in public? Should those without a specific religion be free to cancel other religious practices?
12 Lifestyles	*Should schools promote all lifestyles, beliefs and values to be equal?
13 Education Support	What support (e.g. vouchers, tax credit) should alternative schools (whether charter, home school, private school) have from taxes collected for education?
14 Education Business Connection	Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationships serving education? Please describe.
15 Parental Rights Amendment	*Do you oppose or support a Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? Why? (See www.parentalrights.org for proposed language.)
(These last questions we ask regardless of what office is being sought. You may not think these relate to your office, but how you respond to these controversial questions might help the voter know how you would respond to other controversies in office.)	
16 Governing documents	What do you see as the major governing documents for this position? Have you read them? What does it mean to “uphold the Constitution” in the position you seek?
17 Constituents' concerns	*What plans do you have for remaining aware of your constituents' concerns and desires?
18 Family	What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?
19 Personal/Political	To what degree should an office holder's personal principles be reflected in political decision making? To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision making?
20 Political decisions	Is it appropriate to use the Bible or other religious writings in making political decisions? If so, what would you use? If not, why not?
21 Abortion/capital punishment	*What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice. Which is your view and to what level of conviction do you hold that view? Some say capital punishment is a pro-life issue. What is your perspective?
22 Past President	*What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?
23 Anything else?	Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.
Extra biographical	Biographical information from what candidates provided the Douglas County Election office and/or other web resources. Candidates are asked to email kathy@voterinformation.org if any information is inaccurate. When known, candidate's website is noted.