

2019 SPFE Public City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Please limit the following questions to a yes or no response.

Candidates Clara Ware and Ahmed Hersi were invited to participate, but did not submit completed questionnaires. A completed questionnaire is a requirement for further screening and consideration for endorsement.

1. The Saint Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE) believes parents, educators, community members, and students should be at the center of decision making around educational policy. However, increasingly out of state millionaires with a vested interest in pursuing a corporate education reform agenda have poured money into political races with the goal of removing local voices from discussions about our children’s education.

- a. **Will you and your campaign reject contributions and independent expenditures from wealthy donors who live outside our community and from market-based education reform organizations?**

CANDIDATE	YES	NO
Jane Prince	X	
MaryAnne Quiroz	X	

2. Despite recent increases, public education statewide is severely underfunded, and has not kept pace with inflation. Communities have increasingly been called on to make up the lack of funding by passing levies that increase property taxes for home owners, while wealthy corporations continue to receive tax cuts – allowing them to benefit from our communities without contributing to them.

- a. **Will you as endorse, support, and campaign on increasing revenue that will go directly to public education funding?**

CANDIDATE	YES	NO
Jane Prince	X	
MaryAnne Quiroz	X	

3. SPFE members have indicated that they do not want to participate in Q-Comp (Quality Compensation). The core components of Q-Comp include: performance pay and salary schedule reform, teacher evaluation, and job-embedded professional development. Each Q-Comp plan must include all of the core components. The implementation of Q-Comp requires performance pay to be based on standardized test scores. This funding is dependent on action by the state legislature.

- a. **Would you support moving the funding and capacity put into Tim Pawlenty’s failed teacher merit pay scheme commonly called q-comp, into equitable funding for all Minnesota districts general budget?**

CANDIDATE	YES	NO
Jane Prince	X	
MaryAnne Quiroz	X	

4. **Do you support collective bargaining for public sector unions and will you fight to protect them?**

CANDIDATE	YES	NO
Jane Prince	X	
MaryAnne Quiroz	X	

Please limit your response to 150 words or fewer for each part of the questions below.

1. What is the value of public education for you and for the city of Saint Paul?

JANE PRINCE: Access to quality public education for all children is a founding value of our country and is vital to a healthy, functional society. To paraphrase Founding Father John Adams, the first and leading proponent of broad-based public education, if we do not learn and understand our rights, we will lose them. For Saint Paul, it is essential that all our city's diverse children have the same access to a quality education to ensure their own long-term health, success and happiness, and to ensure that our city has a well-educated and capable workforce and qualified leadership in all sectors. I am concerned that the growth of poverty in our city is tied to declining funding for public education and public programs that have historically lifted individuals and families out of poverty.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: As a product of SPPS, I learned the English language and the American culture mainly from SPPS teachers and mentors. SPPS has taught me that what others would typically see as a disadvantage (race, socioeconomic status, being an English Language Learner) became an advantage for me. As a Regional District Spelling Bee Champion, Ms. Gustafson (my Battle Creek Middle School English teacher) gave me the confidence that I had the ability to not only compete, but win even though English was not my first language. Mr. Gonzalez (my Johnson High School Spanish teacher) taught me compassion by supporting my initiative to organize a food drive and natural disaster relief efforts for Central America in 1997. My SPPS education has taught me to be a compassionate and conscious leader of action and reflection. My family ensured that my education was a priority and their involvement guaranteed my academic success.

2. An endorsement from SPFE is only given to candidates that show they are a champion for public education. We do not endorse in all races.

- a. **What are your direct connections to SPPS, SPFE, and/or public education?**

JANE PRINCE: Last Thursday, I convened a meeting with a group of activists, district staff and city leaders with the aim of creating a public, private, community and philanthropic coalition to address the terrible problem of homeless families and children in our public schools. The tortured testimony of two teens at this meeting has galvanized my commitment to this problem.

As a city councilmember, I seek greater partnerships between schools and recreation centers, to provide seamless access for kids needing safe places to connect with caring adults. I am also chair of the Saint Paul Public Library Board, where Library Go is providing library card access to all students. Last June, in partnership with SPPS, we piloted a Ramadan late night youth program at Highwood Hills, which was an overwhelming success. I'm working toward greater traffic and pedestrian safety at Ward 7 Schools. I have contributed to and have supported every SPPS levy referenda.

I'm a proud product of public schools; my son is a Harding graduate who received an outstanding education.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I am a product of Saint Paul Public Schools, having attended Sheridan Elementary, Battle Creek Middle School and Johnson High School. I have four children, one who graduated from SPPS, two who currently attend SPPS, and one who will attend SPPS schools Fall 2019. I was Parent Liaison at John A. Johnson Elementary from 2007 to 2011. As a Parent Liaison I supported families in navigating the education system and connecting them to community resources for basic needs support as well as culturally relevant events and opportunities to increase their parent engagement to the school. I also received an additional position as the After School Program Coordinator which provided me with the opportunity to work directly with youth scholars. Additionally, many of the youth I work with at Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center and through my dance group, Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli, attend or have graduated from SPPS.

b. What is your definition of a “public education champion”?

JANE PRINCE: I define a public education champion as one who recognizes that our public schools, students and teachers require our complete commitment, ultimately to ensure the enduring success of our city and our society. This means providing funding, tools, partnerships, and volunteerism to assist our educators in meaningfully preparing our next generation of leaders. More than a label, it means looking at every endeavor as an opening to partner with our schools to serve individual students and groups of students in achieving their full potential.

As a council member, and as illustrated above, I have worked extremely hard to fulfill that role, and will continue to do so through my ongoing efforts to connect with individual students as a mentor and to make sure that teachers and educators have an ally in dealing with City Hall.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: A public education champion is someone who sees their values and self-interests aligned with strong public schools; fighting corporate encroachment and serving the needs of communities impacted by historical disinvestment. A public education champion is someone who doesn't just show up for the photo op, but for the hard work and the hard conversations.

c. Why are you seeking an endorsement from SPFE?

JANE PRINCE: When I took office in 2016, two recreation centers had been shuttered for 10 years due to the recession, with one demolished. After a conversation with Wilder leadership about poverty, I made children – and creating more places for them to connect with caring adults – the top priority of my work on the council. I am proud to report that in three years, my efforts have led to the reopening of both centers, with Saint Paul Urban Tennis bringing their excellent youth development program to Eastview Rec (while also serving the hundreds of neighborhood kids who show up for homework help, snacks and open gym); and in April, Highwood Hills Rec. will reopen in partnership with SPPS so that the hundreds of East African families have a community gathering space. I have also worked to have the city invest \$300K in free and low- cost recreation programming in areas of concentrated poverty in our city. Additionally, I tripled the number of Saturday recreation center hours in my ward to include Eastview and Dayton's Bluff. With the needs of children top of mind, I would be proud to again earn your endorsement.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: My roots with SPFE and SPPS run deep. Being a product of SPPS schools and a former SPPS employee and SPFE member has been a huge and formative part of my life. I want to carry your endorsement as a public education champion and work together with you to continue to build a stronger district for our youth-scholars and families.

d. How do you envision working in partnership with SPFE? What does that look like when we disagree?

JANE PRINCE: I take very seriously the endorsements I receive, and expect to be assisting your agenda, carrying your issues in my work. Just recently, I spoke out against the city's proposed financing of the purchase of Central Medical Tower by Concordia University, which will eliminate up to \$200K in our joint property tax base. I emphasized the negative impact on public education. I share SPFE's concern about the city's use of tax increment financing and support a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program for the large number of educational and health care nonprofits which pay no property taxes. With our shared goals of seeking the best for all our city's children, I see ample opportunity for ongoing partnerships in addition to those enumerated here.

My AFSCME and Labor Federation brothers and sisters will tell you that I seek their advice on issues before the council; I worked directly with AFSCME and SEIU to hammer out compromises related to the two labor standard ordinances passed over the past three years. Labor activists who know me will tell you that when or if we disagree, my goal is work hard to reach common ground. In 2016, I stood on the picket line with the Minnesota Nurses Association.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I envision working in partnership with SPFE by bringing my perspective and strategy rooted in the "it takes a village" adage— in which everyone plays a vital role in creating a collaborative partnership through co-governance & mutual accountability. My lived experience as a first generation immigrant and English Language Learner of a single parent, low-income household connects me with many of our SPPS families. Our partnership will be based on respect, honesty, gratitude and service as many of our Indigenous/Native and Immigrant/Refugee families have these similar, shared values as they dream that their children and the next generation of scholars will have the same accessible and equitable opportunities to receive a high quality education.

3. Over the past year, educators across the country have gone on strike. Just one year ago, SPFE narrowly avoided a strike by reaching a last-minute contract with the district.

a. What have you learned from the Red for Ed Movement?

JANE PRINCE: By broadening their appeal to the public, educators are succeeding in making each of us, as voters and taxpayers, recognize that teachers alone cannot carry the burden of educating our children and solving all the socio-economic problems that land in the classroom. Teachers need public support for adequate funding, community resources, and trained counselors and specialists that will allow them to provide our children with a solid educational foundation for being successful in a more complex world that has far more challenges than communities faced just a decade ago.

A constituent of mine recently said to me over coffee, “My kids aren’t in school anymore, why should I pay for that?” Before I could answer, a man at another table called out loudly, “Who paid for YOU to go to school?!” We are fortunate that even as the city and county raised taxes, and the city rolled out its controversial garbage program, Saint Paul overwhelmingly passed the school levy referendum.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: The Red for Ed Movement is both inspiring and encouraging; to see the organized power of people successfully push back against the corporate agenda and fighting for education issues on behalf of children has a dramatic impact on the conversation around worker rights and government funding, and can help push back against the austerity narrative.

- b. **UTLA (United Teachers of Los Angeles) recently ended their strike. In addition to much-needed pay increases, the challenges facing their students are similar to the students of SPPS. How can you use your position to support educators, parents and students in addressing these concerns?**

JANE PRINCE: The power of the national teachers’ strikes has been their demands aimed at supporting students: smaller class sizes, more counselors, mental health professionals, librarians and specialists, a move away from standardized testing, a reining in of charter schools – policy goals to better serve our children, with which no thinking person can disagree. As I walked the line with the nurses, I will stand with teachers to do what is right for the children and families of Saint Paul.

While campaigning for office in 2015, I asked a Somali father what was most important to his community. “The same thing that is important to your community – OUR CHILDREN”. It was then that I decided to make children the focus of my actions. If we focus on the health and success of our children, everything else we do at City Hall will flow from that.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I will use the platform of Saint Paul City Council to draw attention to and center the focus on education issues. I will work to build and expand collaborative partnerships between the city, district, educators, parents, and students. I will push to include public education funding and other issues on the city’s list of legislative priorities.

4. Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) has a diverse student population, with over 75% of students identifying as People of Color. Parents and educators agree that in order for students to be successful, we must have culturally competent curricula and educators that reflect the diversity of our city. At the same time, data shows that our city and our schools are becoming more segregated.

- a. **Segregation and poverty are harmful to all of us, especially our students and their families. How will you work to integrate our city and our schools?**

JANE PRINCE: I share these concerns, particularly given that in Ward 7, the East African community has become segregated in two apartment complexes south of Lower Afton Road (halfway to Newport, MN) where there is inadequate transit, terrible pedestrian and bicycle access, and no convenient commercial or service centers nearby. These residents, mostly immigrant to our city, are culturally isolated and underserved—and in response, end

up sending their children to schools other than those in the neighborhood in hopes that the children will have access to the broader community.

Unfortunately, Saint Paul has been a segregated city for many years, and the structural imbalance that has resulted from unchecked poverty and lack of opportunity has led to similar imbalances in our school system. We will not effectively desegregate our schools until we effectively desegregate the community, which requires a multi-layered approach that includes greater investments in affordable housing, job training, job creation, access to capital for small businesses, increased wages, improved transit, early childhood education and after-school programming.

It also means a citywide racial equity policy that dramatically increases the hiring of staff and teachers within our communities of color and providing the necessary supports so that every child has equal opportunities in our schools while we continue to struggle with the legacy of separate but unequal educational opportunities.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: We must consider our out of school time programs as a strategy. When I ran Battle Creek's after-school program, we provided culturally relevant classes, events, field trips and workshops for students, and made it a goal that a minimum of 80% of our staff reflected our students, culturally and linguistically. We created mentorship programs to support middle school students who are transitioning into high schools as well as provided volunteer and job opportunities for former students to be involved in our schools. If elected to Saint Paul City Council, I will continue to promote such efforts system-wide as a strategy to integrate our city and schools.

I will also work to shift the narrative about what inclusive arts and culture means in our City. We must invest in historically underrepresented and underfunded arts programs, led by indigenous communities and people of color.

5. Research shows the importance of stimulation starting at birth. We know students are more successful in school when they have access to high-quality early childhood education. All students should have access to these programs, whether through our public school systems or accredited independent providers.

a. How will you partner with SPFE to ensure all families have access to quality Pre-K and early learning programs in our city?

JANE PRINCE: With representatives of the city council, Ramsey County board, the Saint Paul Board of Education, Head Start, Generation Next, Superintendent Joe Gothard and State Rep. Dave Pinto, I serve on a steering committee working to develop an early childhood system for our city that would provide access to all families with children ages 3 and 4 to high quality early childhood education. A separate design team is developing program guidelines and we are identifying funding sources that could include a local option sales tax and state funding. The proposal is gaining traction, to make Saint Paul a national model of ensuring school readiness, which is also an economic development investment to attract business and workers to choose Saint Paul.

In my work on the City Council, I have been committed to this initiative and a vocal supporter of these efforts. I look forward to partnering with SPFE to achieve this goal, whether lobbying the legislature for additional funding or securing grants from philanthropic foundations.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I will support and fight for funding expansion for access to quality Pre-K and early learning programs at state level, and fight attempts to increase vouchers and base programs on scholarships. I will work to foster partnerships between SPPS and small, non-corporate providers to supply our students with culturally relevant, quality programming.

- b. **New research shows that many Minnesotans live in childcare deserts, without adequate access to childcare options for their children. How will you use your role to provide additional options early learning options for parents?**

JANE PRINCE: Much of the East Side, which I represent, is so defined. As a board member of the CAPRW, which includes Head Start, I support the planned expansion of Head Start to serve these areas. My efforts to expand recreation center programming include early childhood initiatives. In my role as library board chair in Saint Paul, SPPL is also expanding early childhood learning initiatives. This is in addition to my work on universal preK for 3- and 4-year-olds.

We must continue seek partnerships between the city, county, and school district to enable the district's ECFE program to utilize accessible public buildings to meet whatever space needs they may lack. And I will work with my colleagues to direct the city's lobbyists to partner with SPPS in making this a funding priority at the Capital.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I will foster partnerships and use City resources to identify childcare deserts within the City of Saint Paul. I will also connect residents with existing programs and resources and lobby the state legislature for additional Pre-K funding to resist the corporate takeover of childcare and early childhood education.

6. The current federal Secretary of Education is well-known for her support of "disrupting" public education through "school choice" in the form of online learning, charter schools, and vouchers.

- a. **What is your understanding of how education reform policies impact public education?**

JANE PRINCE: Most education "reform" policies are intended to destabilize traditional public schools by diverting funding to support vouchers, charter schools, and other learning initiatives that more often than not lead to re-segregating our public schools. School vouchers may look enticing to some on the right, but they are mostly a ploy intended to further privatize education so that various for-profit educational companies can benefit. In the end, they negatively impact public education, and outcome we cannot afford nationally or here in St. Paul where the school district serves so many at-risk kids.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: Education reform policies, such as those championed by the current federal Secretary of Education, attempt to turn education into an engine of private profit through the promotion of private schools, online learning, charter schools and vouchers and the defunding of public education.

b. What is your understanding of how charter schools differ from local public schools?

JANE PRINCE: Charter schools are public schools, mostly in name only, with public dollars available in the form of per pupil allotments and lease aid for paying building rent or making bond payments. They differ significantly from public schools because their boards are elected internally and are answerable to the parents of the families at a particular school, not the public at large. Charters also have no requirement to abide by the desegregation rules that are applicable to traditional public schools, which means they don't have to be accountable for solving issues related to diversity and special ed the same way that local public schools must.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: Charter schools differ from local, public schools in that they have less oversight on programming and billing, and their staff and teachers are unable to unionize, bargain collectively and fight for fair treatment.

c. Will you support a moratorium on new charter schools and charter school expansions so that a comprehensive study can be done on the impact of charters schools in our communities (including segregation, tax base, land use, and neighborhood impact)? Who would you partner with for this study? Who would you include as stakeholders?

JANE PRINCE: YES. As an education matter impacting the entire city, I believe a study is needed to assess the rapid expansion of charter schools in Saint Paul. The study should be a collaboration between the city, the school district, and SPFE. Obviously, those families and communities most impacted by these practices are an important part of any study. As I do not have expertise in designing these types of collaborations, I would seek advice from SPFE on how best to design an effective study.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: Yes, I would be open to supporting a moratorium on new charter schools and charter school expansions with transparent dialogue so that a comprehensive study can be done on the impact of charter schools in our communities. As partners, City government, SPPS, SPFE, community councils should be included. As stakeholders: charter school association or representatives, business orgs, PTOs, student representation should be included in conversations and future decisions that impact all parties involved.

7. SPPS and the City of Saint Paul presently do business with institutions that engage in practices that destabilize our community through predatory lending practices, investing in private prisons, and corporate tax avoidance. These practices have led to economic injustice and racial discrimination in our city.

a. How will you use your role to make sure that the largest corporations in Saint Paul pay their fair share?

JANE PRINCE: Many corporations have benefited from heavy corporate subsidies, including millions of dollars in tax-increment financing (TIF) loans. As of a year ago, more than \$25 million in annual property tax payments were being diverted from the city to pay off debt incurred by issuing TIF bonds, which deprives us of the revenue we need to address the many inequities we face, particularly on the East Side. As a council

member who has regularly opposed tax incentives that do not benefit the surrounding community, I would work to end the disinvestment in neighborhoods and curtail the use of TIF except for addressing genuine blight and the affordable housing shortage in Saint Paul.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I support Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and would support partnerships between the District and the City to pressure large corporations to adequately fund the services that make St. Paul a “good place to do business”.

- b. Predatory lending practices increase foreclosure rates, destabilizing families. Will you join with SPFE in calling on banks to refrain from foreclosing on homes of school age students during the school year? What steps will you take to separate the city of Saint Paul from institutions that participate in predatory lending?**

JANE PRINCE: Yes. As both a council member and longtime City Council aide, I have made foreclosure prevention a priority. I know the importance of community reinvestment, and supported the efforts of community organizations that worked for the adoption by the city of a responsible banking ordinance. I would take this effort a step further by urging the city to pursue contracts for required banking services with our local community banks and make it clear to the larger corporate institutions that we will not continue to use their services unless they end their predatory lending practices.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: As someone who has been directly affected by foreclosure and homelessness, I would definitely join with SPFE to call on banks to refrain from foreclosing on homes of school age students and also research creative solutions so that our SPPS families are able to receive support to stay in their homes and reduce high mobility and transitions of our families. I would support divestment, including moving depository accounts and investment funds.

- c. Will you commit to working with SPFE to seek the revenue we need to have racially equitable schools? What does this look like to you?**

JANE PRINCE: Yes. In addition to the above answers in parts “a” and “b”, I would continue to push the city to seek PILOT contributions from nonprofits and explore how we might follow the lead of Boston where annual PILOT payments from nonprofits are published in the local media as a way to raise public pressure for all institutions to shoulder their fair share of the tax burden. Saint Paul’s competitive private colleges which rely on the safety and livability of our city to attract students have an obligation to keep it so.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: Yes, I commit to work with SPFE to seek and secure the revenue needed to have racially equitable schools. For me, this includes pressuring the state legislature to increase funding for racial equity initiatives in public education as well as Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT).

8. Traditionally the city of Saint Paul and SPPS have had an arms’ length relationship. Each has their own budget, and sphere of influence. However, the actions a city takes impacts the daily lives of students and educators, and the desire to be near quality, local, public schools is often a primary factor in how families decide where to live.

- a. **How will you seek out educator and student voice in your decision-making process? What steps will you take to invite SPFE in as a stakeholder? How will you share information with SPFE, parents and students?**

JANE PRINCE: As noted above in my answer to question 2a, I am already doing many of these things through my outreach on homelessness issues, my involvement with early education initiatives, my support of parks and rec partnering with the schools to serve our local immigrant populations, my leadership as head of the Library Board, etc.

As noted in my answer to question 2d above, I routinely seek the advice of union members and leaders on issues facing the city, particularly when the council is being asked to adopt new policies. I believe that I have demonstrated the same commitment to SPFE, but am always willing to revisit the ways that I am sharing information with SPFE, parents and students to make sure it is being done in the most effective, accessible way.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: As someone who is passionate about youthwork led by youth, I'm running a campaign grounded in bringing the community, who have been commonly left out of the process in my Ward and providing education opportunities to get engaged in the process. I am running with my community and will govern with them in which I will maintain clear and open communication with regular check-ins. I will always be open and available to meet with SPFE if there is an area of concern, and will do my best to reach out when I believe a policy has an impact on SPPS.

- b. **Where do you see opportunities for city and the school district to partner? How will you invite input from SPFE, parents and students on what those partnerships look like?**

JANE PRINCE: I believe that it's vitally important for all schools to have community partners, whether it's the Wilder-led "Promise Neighborhood" collaboration championed by the mayor or the highly-praised Hamline-to-Hamline partnership between Hamline Elementary and Hamline-University. Metropolitan State University is an amazing East Side partner, and I would work to broaden this with our East Side schools. I will continue to work with Parks and Rec on cross-programming efforts between the city and the school district so that we can provide citywide after-school programming and recreational activities.

And, as noted above, I will continue to build on my present efforts on homelessness, early education, parks and rec access, Library Go, etc.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: As Co-Founder of Indigenous Roots, we are rooted in implementing restorative justice practices and dialogue to receive feedback, resolve conflict, and/or find common ground in which all parties involved have an opportunity to be included to give input. As an advocate for arts and culture, this has been one of the ways to bring local communities and knowledge together with SPPS and other community partners. I believe regular listening sessions, seeking input from the community and stakeholders are additional opportunities to partner.

9. In 2018, SPFE joined our institutional partners in calling for elected officials to engage in co-governance and people-centered democracy. As a practice, this means engaging

with your partners in all areas of public work, a willingness to be held accountable to promises, and on-going, open communication.

a. What do the terms co-governance and people-centered democracy mean to you?

JANE PRINCE: Exactly how they sound. No one individual has all the answers to the problems we face in the world. We need as many knowledgeable voices and organizations invested in our democracy as we can find, something that local governments often forget. Outside of the electoral process, I frequently door knock areas in my ward to seek input on decisions before the council. For the past three and a half years I have worked tirelessly to learn from people throughout my ward and the city, attending every significant event, meeting, gathering, or presentation that I could fit on my schedule. No one will outwork me in terms of bringing as many voices as possible to the table, particularly those who can positively impact outcomes for children in our public schools. I frequently hold meetings with under-represented groups, like immigrant business owners, when their voices have not been heard on issues affecting them.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: Co-governance means through shared self-interest, shared values, and mutual accountability and partnership. It is a collective and cooperative effort to ensure that I and the people I represent our part of the processes and that there are no barriers to participation.

b. What groups and individuals will you look to for guidance?

JANE PRINCE: As I have always done, I am committed to seeking input from both traditional and nontraditional groups and individuals, whether it's our District Councils, Unions, NAACP, Horn of Africa, Hmong American Partnership, CLUES, Reach Together, African Economic Development Solutions, Latino Economic Development Association, East Side Area Business Association, Community Development partners, small businesses or neighborhood groups that form to address a myriad of issues from homelessness to hunger to foreclosure prevention to historic preservation. This list of stakeholders must remain fluid so that no one is left out.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I look for guidance from elders, youth, mentors, community leaders and parents.

c. What steps will you take to make sure decisions are made with communities, instead of for communities?

JANE PRINCE: Please see answers to question 8 and 9b and 9c above. I am doing these things every day in my work on the council, and before that as a longtime council aide. I've been invested in community my entire professional career, and as a private practice attorney, handled many land use disputes which arose because of a lack of community input. I know what it's like for a community or neighborhood to be left out of a decision-making process, and I carry that sensitivity with me in every issue I address as an elected official and representative of Ward 7.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: As a parent, first and foremost, my decision will always be in the lens in favor of our youth-scholars and families. With that said, I make my decisions with our communities.

d. How will you separate your accountability to the public good you're your personal feelings?

JANE PRINCE: It is impossible for anyone not to invest their personal feelings in an issue they care about. But I didn't run for city council to advance any personal agenda. I did so because I believed it vitally important that the city take issues of equity more seriously than it had in the past, particularly on the East Side where our community has so often been ignored when funds are allocated or priorities determined. That's why I fought so hard to reopen rec centers and expand hours at existing rec centers so that kids in our neighborhoods had similar options to those available in more affluent parts of St. Paul. That's the same reason why I am seeking re-election. This job is not about me; it's about what we can all do to make the city a better place to work, study, and play for everyone, something I'm committed to do every day on the City Council.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: I will separate my accountability to the public good and personal feelings by always looking to the guidance of our communities.

10. What specific steps will you take to protect the right of workers – especially public sector workers – to bargain collectively? How will you encourage all workers to be part of a union, should they choose to?

JANE PRINCE: I support collective bargaining and would oppose any attempts to privatize city services the way that some of our mayors have tried to do in the past. I have supported unions throughout my professional career and understand better than most how union members having a voice at the table through collective bargaining makes us a better institution and a better employer. I would oppose any efforts, like those we've seen in neighboring states, to make Minnesota a "right-to-work state"—and am heartened by the recent election of a pro-union governor and majority pro-union State House of Representatives. I was on the picket line with the Minnesota Nurses Association in 2016 and will be there again if another employer forgets the importance of what workers bring to the workplace and the communities they serve.

MARYANNE QUIROZ: As a former union member, I will stand with striking workers and support unionization efforts. If statewide anti-union policies are passed, I will work to pass legislation at the City level to protect workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively..