

<b>Name</b>
Berdetta Hodge
<b>District Name</b>
Tempe Union High School District
<b>Student Enrollment</b>
13,000
<b>County</b>
Maricopa
<b>Years on Your Board</b>
7
<b>Position you are interested in running for (select only one):</b>
Secretary
<b>Cell Phone number</b>
(480) 233-4174
<b>Email address</b>
<a href="mailto:hodge.berdetta@gmail.com">hodge.berdetta@gmail.com</a>
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.</li> <li>I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2024</li> <li>I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA</li> </ul>
<b>Involvement with ASBA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years</li> </ul>
<b>Please provide position(s) held and years</b>
Black Caucus Chair; 2022-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have served on an ASBA committee within the past four years</li> </ul>
<b>Please provide committee name(s) and year(s) of service</b>
Governance Committee: 2021-2022; Legislative Committee: 2021-2022; Superintendent Evaluation Committee: 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have served as an officer for an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years</li> </ul>
<b>Please provide position(s) held and years</b>
Black Caucus Chair: 2022-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years.</li> </ul>
<b>Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus</b>
Black Caucus; Hispanic/Native American Indian Caucus; Equity Caucus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years</li> </ul>
<b>Please provide year(s)</b>

2019; 2020

- I have completed ASBA New Board Member Orientation.
- I have received at least 36 hours of training from ASBA.
- I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

### Candidate Statement

**Please provide a statement of up to 200 words on why you want to serve in this capacity and what you can offer as a member of the ASBA Board of Directors. If you are selected as a candidate, this statement will be published in the “ASBA Officer Voting Guide” provided to the membership.**

Serving Tempe families on the Tempe Union High School District for the last seven years has been one of my greatest accomplishments. In this time period, I served as President of the TUHSD Governing Board and ascended the leadership ranks of the Arizona School Board Association. I have been a member of all ASBA caucuses and nearly all the organization's committees. ASBA has been critical to my personal growth and professional development. Without access to the many training sessions, education programs, leadership programs, and other opportunities offered by the ASBA, I would not have been as successful in my role as a governing board member. Now, I seek to serve my fellow ASBA members as the organization's Secretary in 2024. I want to serve and give back to an entity that has given so much to me. ASBA's Board of Directors deserves a Secretary who will rise to challenges presented and ensure administrative tasks are completed effectively. I am that Secretary.

### Candidate Photo

**If you are selected as a candidate, your photo will be published in the “ASBA Officer Voting Guide” if you desire. The photo must be submitted at this time for it to be included in the guide.**

- [Berdetta-TUHSD-Photo.jpg](#)

### Required Narrative Questions

#### Questions 1: Why do you want to be an ASBA elected officer?

ASBA's Elected Officers play a critical role in charting the organization's path to success. We work together to create a brighter future for Arizona's public school students, and to ensure that our public school teachers have the resources they need to usher our students to success. I want to be an ASBA Elected Officer because I know that with my career, governing board, and ASBA experiences, I WILL lead to our organization to greater levels of success. As Chair of ASBA's Black Alliance, I have been a voice to this sometimes-overlooked, yet critical, constituency. Thanks to my leadership, vision, and ability to work strongly as a team, African American public school students are doing better and accomplishing more academically. We have narrowed the achievement gap that exists between white students and students of color. I know that as an ASBA Elected Officer, I can continue these achievements and ensure that students from ALL cultural backgrounds can experience success in Arizona public schools. As an Executive Officer, my priorities will be to ensure there is equal opportunity for students regardless of income or background. I will work tirelessly with school districts across the state to foster student confidence and lead them on a path to success.

#### Questions 2: What unique capabilities do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?

As Secretary, I will play a critical role in handling the administrative oversight for my fellow ASBA Executive Officers and Board of Directors. I have had ample experience with all of the tasks that I will be assigned as Secretary. I am meticulous, detail-oriented, and enjoy preserving records and keeping minutes, two of my required tasks. I am also a member of Tempe City Council and in this other role, I have gained even more experience as a voting delegate, which will also be required of me as ASBA Secretary. A knowledgeable, experienced, and professionally-trained governing board member such as myself is fundamental for ensuring public school student success and ASBA success.

#### Questions 3: What leadership experience have you demonstrated on your board in your district community (elevating the voice of your community and district, leadership on policy, leading advocacy work locally, etc)?

I was first elected to the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board in 2016. I was the first African American female member elected to serve on this critical body. As soon as I took office, I jumped at the opportunities to assume leadership roles with the board and to learn how I can be an effective school board

member. One of my favorite quotes is, "Our fingerprints never fade from the lives we touch." I have lived this mantra while leading on TUHSD's Governing Board. I have been the governing board representative to the district's Site Council, which serves as an advisory body in areas such as school Improvement, staff evaluation, instructional strategies, school renovations, curriculum development, school safety issues, and parent and educator relations. I was also TUHSD's liaison with the Administrative Council, which advises education leaders at high schools in Tempe on matters of policies and strategies. On a national level, I have served as ASBA's delegate to the National School Board Association.

In addition to my duties with TUHSD, I have served the City of Tempe as a member of Tempe City Council since 2022. I was the first African American female to be elected to office. I am a recognized community leader who has held leadership roles on prominent state entities. I have served on Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs' African American Advisory Commission, and on City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego's African American Advisory Board.

**Questions 4: ASBA has a diverse membership. What would you do to ensure we are meeting as many of our members' needs as possible?**

An ASBA Executive Officer must be a good listener. He or she must be someone who can easily connect with, and be a resource for, educational leaders from across Arizona. I have all those qualities. To ensure that we are meeting the needs of my fellow ASBA members, as an Executive Officer, I would first travel the state to understand what their needs are. Educators and educational leaders in one part of the state may have different challenges and needs than educators in another part of the state. I would attend as many governing board and school board meetings as possible to learn and grow as a leader. Second, I would ensure that superintendents and school board members have my contact information and know that as an ASBA Executive Officer, I am in my role to advocate for them. Finally, I would work closely with my fellow Executive Officers to develop an Agenda of Priorities for Public School Districts in Arizona. This will go a long way to ensuring that all of us are on the page as we move forward in advancing the causes for public schools in our state.

**Questions 5: From your perspective and involvement with ASBA, what opportunities do you see; for example professional development, member service, advocacy, etc?**

I have been actively involved in ASBA since I was first elected to the Tempe Union High School District's Governing Board. Though I am pleased with the number of 2-hour and 3-hour trainings and workshops, I would like the ASBA offer more. One growth opportunity I see for our organization is to offer more 2-hour trainings to school board members across Arizona. I would like to see more trainings that can educate our members on what school boards in different states do to be successful. I'd also like to see more trainings that describe how a school board fits in to the overall structure of the state government and how we can be more effective advocates once we identify who we need to advocate to. A second growth opportunity is to forge closer ties between our organization and municipal government. Once we learn more about what our cities do in the realm of education, we work together to educate ourselves on how they may assist us in achieving our organizational goals. A third growth opportunity I see for ASBA is to ensure our meetings are run more efficiently. As ASBA's Secretary in 2024, I would play an important role in our meetings processes and having productive meetings where all attendees feel like they have had an opportunity to be heard.

**Questions 6: What is your perspective with the term "Equity"? As a leader of ASBA how would you advocate this term in relationship to student academic/vocational success?**

Over the last seven years, I have learned how important the term "Equity" is to the ASBA as a whole. Our state has a complicated history with public education. For decades, students of color were marginalized and their needs ignored. We lacked equity in Arizona. Over the last 40 years, the ASBA has assumed the responsibility for righting the wrongs of past generations. I am committed to removing systemic inequities must be so that every Arizona public school student achieves their fullest potential. As the first African American female elected to the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board, I do not take my role in equitizing our school districts lightly. I have worked hard in my tenure to ensure that all high schools in Tempe, regardless of their zip code, are equipped with the latest technology and academic resources. I have worked hard to improve safety in all schools so that teachers can teach and students can learn without fear of harm. I have advocated for all TUHSD schools at both the county, state, and federal levels. Opportunity and achievement gaps do persist, but such gaps are no longer as drastic as they were before 2016. I understand that the pursuit of educational equity will always be an ongoing journey and is not a fixed destination. As an Executive Officer with the ASBA, I vow to play a role in serving as a steward of equity for Arizona public school students.