

Name
Nicholas Nordgran-Tellez
District Name
Solomon Elementary School District
Student Enrollment
170
County
Arizona
Years on Your Board
8
Position you are interested in running for (select only one):
Secretary
Cell Phone number
(480) 734-7230
Email address
nicholasatellez@gmail.com
Eligibility Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years. • I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2024 • I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA
Involvement with ASBA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years
Please provide position(s) held and years
1 year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>My name is Nicholas "Nick" A. Nordgran-Tellez, and I am seeking the officer role of secretary for ASBA in 2024. I served as the Graham County Director for one year and currently in my 8th year of serving my local school board. I have also served as my board president. The desire to serve in a greater capacity has been a long-time goal of mine within ASBA. The professional development I have received as a school board member through ASBA is immeasurable and I believe it is time I utilize my skills to the benefit of the association. I offer advocacy, leadership, facilitator, activism, and years of community engagement. The continual attacks on Public Education from detractors and lawmakers alike are endangering the viability of an adequately funded public school education and it is our responsibility as an association to provide board members with the necessary tools to advocate and govern effectively for their board, for their schools, and for Arizona. I wish to lend my time and efforts in the tremendous mission of ASBA and be a representative and advocate for our public schools and I believe serving at the executive level is a worthwhile service to the diverse communities of Arizona. Together, ASBA and it's members can bring Arizona Schools stability, sustainability, and a future</p>

through the professional development provided by ASBA. I hope to be able to serve my association as secretary in order move Arizona Public Education forward and solidify our children's education.

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.

- [Blue-Blazer-Flags30.jpg](#)

Required Narrative Questions

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

I would utilize my networks within the political, educational, small business, non-profit, and my personal networks to further the cause of Public Education. The networks I have built throughout the years will help in advocating for ASBA, its members, education, and the children of Arizona. I understand the many demands of representing an association such as ASBA and I believe I can work for the association in a representative capacity. The position of secretary is a role in which I would take great interest, care, accountability, and complete commitment to the role of lobbyist for ASBA and Public Education.

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?

The capacity to welcome and honor the many diverse individuals and their beliefs within the association while working to find commonalities for all children is an invaluable trait for a secretary and I am capable of doing this work. I can work with people, and I often build partnerships for social and educational equity, diversity, and inclusion. I advocate for minorities, underserved groups, and discriminated groups in order to preserve the right for all children to have an education. My capacity to facilitate can be made an asset as an officer of ASBA and I would take the utmost responsibility in my tasks. I have a leadership based in growing future leaders and mentoring individuals preparing themselves for future leadership roles. I have the capacity to build up future leaders and provide support to fellow leaders.

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)?

As a board president I attempted to include sexual orientation and gender identity in our non-discriminatory policies. As a community organizer, I am starting a non-profit for the LGBTQIA2S+ community to promote tolerance and inclusion in our rural community and our schools. As a school board leader I have taken our student government children to the capital for a day of learning about the legislative process. I served as the Graham County Director for ASBA for one year.

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

I am an avid ambassador for equity, diversity, and inclusion. I believe constant engagement with all communities within the state is invaluable and I would use my position to build relationships. Emails, calls, postcards, letters, and conversations at every opportunity is common practice for me in my professional life and I will utilize this skill in my role as secretary. I am able to reach across the aisle and speak to people and their diversity becomes an area of interest rather than distrust. My networks include unlike social groups and my role as a secretary would continue to expand these diverse social groups to aid in the associations mission to preserve and better public education boards.

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

The area that jumps to the top of my mind is advocacy. I believe our members could benefit greatly from more development centered around advocacy and how one can continually advocate for public education. The role of school board member is already a challenging enough endeavor of the heart for those who choose to serve; so, the building of a volunteer lobbyist through advocacy training is sometimes an afterthought, but I believe it could be an actual break out session and made into a priority. I think we could build up the advocacy arm of the association and make the day of advocacy more robust and impactful.

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?

Equity means providing access to education for all our children. Are we providing the most beneficial use of our resources and efforts to every student. Is the individual getting their right to an education fulfilled and are we constantly seeking to fulfill this obligation not matter the barriers. Are we removing barriers where and when we

can? For instance, what does an individual need to be successful in the public education system? Already at a disadvantage because of limited resources, Public Education is accountable for providing these opportunities to all students regardless of the barriers. Providing ramp accessibility to every building or space in order for students in wheelchairs to have access is the easiest example of equity. Providing a transgender child with an accessible safe bathroom becomes the more challenging aspect of equity; more importantly, it is our responsibility to do so. The way I would consistently advocate this term is: Equity is the right of our students to an education fulfilled by the removal of barriers.