

#203

COMPLETE

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Page 1: ALL CANDIDATES: Welcome

Q1

Your information

Name	Michelle Sarju
Email Address	michelle@sarjuforseattleschools.com
Phone Number	206-371-7514

Q2**Yes**

I have read instructions at the top of this page

Page 2: ALL CANDIDATES: Campaign Contact Information

Q3

Campaign contact information

Candidate first name	Michelle
Candidate last name	Sarju
Campaign email	michelle@sarjuforseattleschools.com
Campaign website (optional)	sarjuforseattleschools.com

Q4

Candidate name pronunciation (optional)

Michelle Sarju (Sar joo)

Q5

Candidate pronouns (optional)

She/her

Q6 Respondent skipped this question
Campaign Manager information (optional)

Q7 Respondent skipped this question
Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Q8
Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Consultant first name	Upper Left Strategies
Consultant last name	Olivia Sarriugarte
Consultant email	olivia@ulstrategies.com

Q9
Other Campaign Contact information (optional)

Other role	Compliance Officer
Other first name	Abbot
Other last name	Taylor
Other email	abbot@abbottaylor.com

Q10 Respondent skipped this question
Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

Q11
Additional Campaign contact information (all optional)

Facebook Page (campaign)	Michelle For Seattle School Board, District 5
Instagram	@SarjuforSSB
Twitter	@SarjuforSSB

Q12 Use Facebook Profile Picture
URL to Headshot (optional)

Page 3: ALL CANDIDATES: Yes / No Questions

Q13 Yes
Are you a Democrat?

Q14

Yes/No Questions

	Yes / No / Qualifie d
Have you ever been a member of another political party?	No
Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?	No
Do you have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?	Yes
If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?	Yes
Is there anything from your past that might hamper your success as a candidate?	No
Do you support employees of your jurisdiction (e.g. your city's employees, the Port's employees, etc.) exercising their collective bargaining rights without fear of retaliation; including the right to bargain and strike for better working conditions and pay?	Yes
Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism and implicit bias?	Qualifie d
Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat sexual harassment?	Yes
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate fossil fuel PACs?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate pharmaceutical PACs?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate health insurance PACs?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate building industry PACs; including the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) and National Association of Home Builders?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from police guilds or sheriffs' organizations?	No
Will you denounce contributions that you don't support from companies who support your campaign anyway?	Yes
Have you previously participated or will you be participating in a candidate training program like Institute for a Democratic Future or Emerge?	Qualifie d

Q15

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

1. I have already taken the Emerge Washington Training in 2017
2. I am an African American woman who has been doing anti-racism, anti-oppression, and social justice work my entire adult life. I come from a family of public servants who have also been doing this work their whole lives.

Page 4: ALL CANDIDATES: Candidate Background and Free Response

Q16

Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation etc.)

Bachelor's Degree: University of Oregon

Masters' Degree of Social Work: University of Oregon; Certificate of Licensure (retired): Licensed Midwife for the state of Washington

Employment: King County Public Health Innovation and Implementation Manager

Community and Civic Activity: Washington Education Squash Academy--Racial Equity Advisory Board Member; Institute for Family Development--Board Member; Women of Color in Education (Member); Leadership Tomorrow--class of 2002; Previous PTSA Board Member at Garfield High School

Q17

Please describe your history of involvement (if any), with particular emphasis on the last five years, in local, regional, and/or state politics.

In 2015 I was selected by Dow Constantine to be the co-Chair for the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Initiative for King County, Washington.

Q18

Please describe the progress of your campaign and goals. How do you plan to win?

Campaign Goals: Ensure that every child can access a high quality, public school education in Seattle, WA.

Priorities:

1. Advocacy of policies and plans to support mental health well-being for students.
 2. Elimination of standardized testing--replacing with evidenced-based metrics of success
 3. Prioritizing, installing, and supporting a strengths-based, culturally accurate, Ethnic Studies programs.
 4. Strengths-based plan for possible hybrid learning model moving forward.
 5. How I plan to win: telling the story of my professional work which has been focused on Maternal-Child/Family health and well-being across the lifespan and that connection to Education; my experience as the parent of 3 African American SPS children; my unique qualifications that make me a perfect fit for School Board
-

Q19

What issues do you think deserve more attention from media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected?

1. How structural and institutional racism impacts children and youth.
 2. How White supremacy and white privilege work to deny access to equitable resources for all students.
 3. Why mental health and well-being in SPS classrooms must be a priority--especially now that the evidence of the 400+ year racism pandemic has been exposed for all to see.
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Q20

How do you plan to involve all residents and engage all communities in the decision making process? How would you work with people who lack trust in our institutions?

Involvement: listening sessions; town halls; information sessions; small group discussions; working with PTSA's.

Building Trust: Active listening; Communicate effectively; be honest and transparent; admit my mistakes; involve others in decision making/collaborate with stakeholders; seek a diverse group people to provide feedback; follow through; do what is right even though it may be hard.

Q21

COVID has increased existing inequities. How will you use your office to support the most vulnerable? How would you promote an equitable recovery and create opportunity for all?

Develop a plan to safely re-integrate students into classroom and address the challenges of re-integration

Prioritize student and teacher socio-emotional health during and post re-entry

Advocate for additional mental health funding to meet the needs of students

Investing additional resources into students who were not able to access the same educational opportunities as their more affluent peers during the school-from-home period

Virtual learning options: Every parent wants to know their children are safe and healthy. For parents and families who are not yet comfortable returning to in-person learning, we must continue to provide high quality virtual options so vulnerable students and families can learn safely.

Q22

If elected, how will you use your position to address racial inequality, and advance an anti-racist agenda? How specifically would you support the Black Lives Matter movement?

Focus on development of policies and strategies to eliminate the opportunity gap. We need to equip teachers to teach a diverse student population. Our schools should be relationship focused, understand the social-emotional needs of all students, as well as the barriers and challenges marginalized students face. We can begin to do this by:

Increased focus on K-3rd grade support, which data shows is the most foundational educational period of a child's life, influencing their future trajectories

Re-imagine our child-school relationships -instead of suspensions and expulsions, utilize trauma-informed and evidence-based approaches to mitigate harm

Continue to invest in K-12 anti-racist curriculum

BLM--I am the Black Lives Matter movement--I am African American. I spent last summer protesting even after I was assaulted by police officers. I challenged the Police Chief on SPD's approach. I am actively involved at King County, pushing them to address structural and institutional racism. I will also challenge SPS on what they will do to ensure that students returning to the classroom are not once again subjected to racist treatment and marginalization. I will work hard to install Ethnic Studies as a mandatory curriculum taught by people from marginalized communities and who affected by racism. I will talk with BIPOC students about their experiences and try to respond with solutions.

Page 5: ALL CANDIDATES: Jurisdiction and Position

Q23 **School District Director**
Position Sought

Q24 **Seattle School District**
Jurisdiction

Q25 **5**
Position number

Page 6: KING COUNTY OFFICES ONLY: Questions for King County Executive and King County Council

Q26 **Respondent skipped this question**
Yes/No Questions for King County

Q27 **Respondent skipped this question**
For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q28 **Respondent skipped this question**
How have you worked to combat climate change and promote climate justice? How would you use your elected office to ensure King County drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

Q29 **Respondent skipped this question**
King County plays an important role in providing many health and human services, as evidenced in the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. What has King County done well in its response to COVID? What would you continue, expand, and change? Do you support increased funding for many health and human services? How would you fund those services - even after the pandemic is over?

Q30 **Respondent skipped this question**
How would you advocate for alternatives to incarceration in the County's criminal legal system? How would you make zero youth incarceration a reality in King County?

Q31

Respondent skipped this question

What would you do to ensure that businesses owned by people of color have a fair shot at County contracts?

Q32

Respondent skipped this question

"Structural racism is not always caused by racist actors – it is caused by institutional arrangements overlaid on historical policies that continue to perpetuate racialized outcomes." - Stephen Menendian How would you use your position to work to dismantle these arrangements including, but not limited to, exclusionary land use policies?

Page 7: MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES ONLY: Questions for ALL Mayor, City Council, and City Attorney Candidates

Q33

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for municipal candidates

Q34

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q35

Respondent skipped this question

Our region is growing quickly. How will you ensure that existing residents and newcomers alike have equitable access to affordable housing, public transit, and neighborhood amenities such as parks and schools? How will you protect current residents, and especially our most vulnerable communities, from displacement caused by this growth? How will you provide for and protect those displaced?

Q36

Respondent skipped this question

How have you worked to combat climate change? How would you use your elected office to ensure your region drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

Q37

Respondent skipped this question

What specific actions will you take to address the homelessness crisis in King County, both in the short term and long term? How do you plan to implement these solutions?

Q38

Respondent skipped this question

"Structural racism is not always caused by racist actors – it is caused by institutional arrangements overlaid on historical policies that continue to perpetuate racialized outcomes." - Stephen Menendian How would you use your position to work to dismantle these arrangements including, but not limited to, exclusionary land use policies?

Q39

Respondent skipped this question

Jurisdiction Check

Page 8: SEATTLE-ONLY: Questions for SEATTLE-ONLY municipal candidates

Q40

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for Seattle municipal candidates

Q41

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q42

Respondent skipped this question

What actions would you take to address homelessness? Please consider addressing land use, revenue, regional collaboration, the role of social services, the role of the police and justice system.

Q43

Respondent skipped this question

Seattleites are divided on how to fund and what to fund within police work and public safety. How would you help bring the community together and adjust the Seattle Police Department (SPD) budget as needed? By approximately what % would you adjust the SPD budget?

Q44

Respondent skipped this question

How will you prioritize transportation infrastructure for biking, pedestrians, transit, commercial vehicles, and cars? Which do you view as most important to prioritize funds for?

Q45

Respondent skipped this question

Do you support utilizing Seattle's newly granted authority to implement a 1% flat income tax?

Page 9: PORT ONLY: Questions for PORT Candidates

Q46

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for port candidates

Q47

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q48

Respondent skipped this question

As the Port recovers from the economic impact of the pandemic, how will you use your position to ensure that future growth and activity among tenant operations is inline with limiting climate impacts and encourage environmental stewardship to be a good neighbor and steward of our environment? How would help alleviate today's present and real issues, specifically homelessness?

Q49

Respondent skipped this question

Since the pandemic and recent trade tariffs, the Seaport and Airport revenue and user statistics have plummeted. However, their capital investment was based on previous growth trends. As Port Commissioner, how will you help the Port to address these new economic realities?

Q50

Respondent skipped this question

The Port has operations and activities on tribal and indigenous land. How would you use your position to elevate indigenous people and encourage more equity and opportunity for BIPOC Communities? Give us some specific examples of your plans in this aspect. How would you handle your approach to women-and minority-owned businesses.

Q51

Respondent skipped this question

Considering the health impacts and socio-economic ramifications of increased airport activity, how would you balance the future growth of SeaTac airport with the interests of the residents of airport-adjacent communities?

Page 10: SCHOOL BOARD ONLY: Questions for SCHOOL BOARD Candidates

Q52

Yes/No Questions for school board candidates

	Yes / No / Qualified
Do you support increased instruction time and a concurrent reduction of student testing?	Yes
Do you support the right of parents to opt their children out of standardized testing?	Yes
Do you support linking teacher evaluations to standardized test scores?	Qualified
Do you support charter schools and/or vouchers for private school education?	Qualified
Do you support amending the Washington State Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters to approve school bonds?	Yes
Do you support supplemental funding for International Baccalaureate & Advanced Placement testing for low-income students?	Yes
Do you support increases in salary for teachers who attain additional relevant degrees and certification?	Qualified
Do you support COVID vaccination for school staff prior to returning to in-person learning?	Yes
Would you support continuing and expanding art, music, physical education, and library classes?	Yes

Q53

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Standardized Testing--we need to eliminate standardized testing. These tests were created by White people for White people. The data is clear--performance on these tests is connected to the wealth of the family. There are other more constructive and useful ways to assess student learning and performance.

Charter Schools and Private Schools: Public school education is a birth right. I am not against charter schools or private schools. However, we need to invest in ensuring that Seattle Public Schools are high quality and accessible--regardless of zip code, socio-economic status, first language, disability, gender identity, race, disability status, or any other marginalized category.

Salary increases--teachers need to be able to support all students and provide an effective, strengths-based, relationship-oriented teaching environment free of racism or marginalization. It has been my personal experience as a parent that degrees and certifications alone does not confer that a teacher is equipped with the aforementioned.

Q54

How has the pandemic changed your perspective on educational equity? What will you propose to address the educational consequences of the COVID pandemic? What specific policies will you seek to ensure that all staff and students can safely return to in-person school safely during the COVID pandemic? How will you work to bridge the digital divide both now and after return to in-person education?

I have previously stated the following:

COVID Re-entry and Recovery:

Develop a plan to safely re-integrate students into classroom and address the challenges of re-integration

Prioritize student and teacher socio-emotional health during and post re-entry

Advocate for additional mental health funding to meet the needs of students

Investing additional resources for students who were not able to access the same educational opportunities as their more affluent peers during the school-from-home period

Virtual learning options: Every parent wants to know their children are safe and healthy. For parents and families who are not yet comfortable returning to in-person learning, we must continue to provide high quality virtual options so vulnerable students and families can learn safely.

Regarding a hybrid learning system for teachers: teachers will need support in how to simultaneously manage virtual and in-person learning. The administration of the District needs to strategize with Board members, teachers, students, families, and building leadership to collaboratively develop a robust and implementable plan.

Q55

What policies or changes will you seek to ensure that all students— regardless of their gender, race, class, disability, or ethnicity—receive an education that enables them to reach their fullest potential? What would you do to advance anti-racist and indigenous curriculum? What do you see as your role in disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline?

Policies or Changes:

Increased focus on K-3rd grade support, which data shows is the most foundational educational period of a child's life, influencing their future trajectories

Re-imagine our child-school relationships -instead of suspensions and expulsions, utilize trauma-informed and evidence-based approaches to mitigate harm

Continue to invest in K-12 anti-racist curriculum

Investing additional resources into students who were not able to access the same educational opportunities as their more affluent peers during the school-from-home period

Virtual learning options: Every parent wants to know their children are safe and healthy. For parents and families who are not yet comfortable returning to in-person learning, we must continue to provide high quality virtual options so vulnerable students and families can learn safely.

Q56

What should schools and school districts do to support the physical and mental health of all students; including LGBTQ+ students and students with disabilities? Please provide specific examples. Also, what actions would you take to remedy student access to and pay inequity among school nurses, paraeducators, and school office staff?

What should schools and school districts do to support the physical and mental health of all students, including LGBTQ+ students and students with disabilities?

Prioritize student and teacher socio-emotional health during and post re-entry--

Advocate for additional mental health funding to meet the needs of students--Investing additional resources into students who were not able to access the same educational opportunities as their more affluent peers during the school-from-home period

Students with disabilities--the SPS district did not meet the needs of students with disabilities during the pandemic. This must be addressed. School Board Directors, District Staff, and the Union need to come together and collaborate on a solid and implementable plan to mitigate this situation.

LGBTQ students--Zachary DeWolf was successful in his effort to get the Board to adopt a resolution to install and inclusive LBGTQ curriculum as well as gender neutral bathrooms. I would continue to advocate for effective implementation and make additions if needed. This area will also be a focus for me to ensure that it is not eliminated or negatively changed.

Provide wholistic, strengths-based training opportunities for teachers and building staff--teachers cannot implement something they know nothing about. I recognize that union involvement will be necessary but that should not be used as an excuse for not exploring opportunities.

What actions would you take to remedy student access to and pay inequity among school nurses, paraeducators, and school office staff?

As a person whose first (and only) language is English, this question makes no sense. If the intent is to glean my position on equitable pay for school nurses, Education Assistants (paraeducators is a pejorative term that denotes "less than") and school office staff, I support fair and equitable pay for all. As the parent of a former SPS school employee who was required to teach with being compensated for teaching activities, I fully support all staff receiving equitable pay for their work. If this is still an issue after I am elected, I would make this a priority to investigate and collaborate with others to ensure the issue is resolved.

Q57

What would you do to advocate for ample and equitable funding for k-12 education including special education, school nurses, counselors, mental health professionals, and paraeducators?

This is an issue that requires engagement with various groups including OSPI, SPS Board Members, Legislators, SPS district staff, and requisite staff. I would collaborate with all parties to discover the best way to advocate and install needed strategies to ensure that programs and essential staff positions are adequately funded.

Q58

Has the disruption of regular schooling and introduction of distance learning in the last year caused you to re-evaluate any aspect of traditional instruction and the structure of schooling? Are there changes you would like to see implemented?

The pandemic has daylighted the barriers, deficits, and gaps of traditional instruction. The lack of a robust plan for SPS to wholistically support all students as the pandemic emerged and proliferated has created a reality that many students are even further behind. Students have also suffered mental health stress, food insecurity, social isolation. Returning to buildings without a robust mitigation plan for learning loss, mental health support, ensuring that students are not returning to environments that further marginalize them, will result in a situation that will leave students in a worse position that existed before the dueling pandemics. As a School Board Director, I will be a member of a team. As I do in my professional capacity, I will collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure that strategies and policies are developed so that all students can learn and grow in our public schools.

Page 11: JUDICIAL ONLY: Questions for JUDICIAL Candidates

Q59

Respondent skipped this question

Have you served full-time or pro-tem as a judge or justice? What did you learn from that experience and how will you use that learning to help improve equity and fairness in the justice system?

Q60

Respondent skipped this question

How have you helped tackle climate change issues from within your courtroom daily activities to an overall sustainable plan?

Q61

Respondent skipped this question

How has COVID-19 experience changed your perspective/behavior/actions on access to justice within your courtroom?

Q62

Respondent skipped this question

How would you advocate for more equity in our State's justice system? How can we make it more open, transparent and responsive?

Q63

Respondent skipped this question

How are you going to make sure you don't allow bias (including, but not limited to, racial bias) while serving on the bench and/or in the courtroom?

Q64

Respondent skipped this question

Do you believe judges can be biased and if so in what ways, please provide examples?

Q65

Respondent skipped this question

Do you see addressing bias and racial disparity in the court system as activism? Why or why not?

Q66

Respondent skipped this question

Do you think that judicial training focused on racial competency is activism? Why or why not?

Q67

Respondent skipped this question

Do you think racial disparity exists in the court system and more specifically on the bench?

Q68

Respondent skipped this question

What will you do as a judge to eliminate and mitigate bias on the bench?

Q69

Respondent skipped this question

What committees, commissions, workgroups do you currently or have previously served on?

Q70

Respondent skipped this question

Have you received or are you seeking political or financial support from any police officer, police guild/union or elected law enforcement official?

Page 12: ALL CANDIDATES: Submit Questionnaire

Q71

I, candidate, affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Candidate full name (as signature)

Michelle Sarju

Date

04/11/21**Q72**

Candidate

Information in this questionnaire was input by:

Q73

Respondent skipped this question

(If information input by someone other than candidate) I affirm that all responses were reviewed and approved by the candidate. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Q74

Share with King County Democrats

King County Democrats may post this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by King County Democrats Endorsements Committee members and Executive Board.

Q75

Share with LD Dems and YD Endorsement Committee members

King County Democrats may share this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by members of the Endorsements Committees of Legislative District (LD) Democratic organizations and Young Democrats (YD) organizations.

Q76

(OPTIONAL) Share with PCOs and/or Members

Respondent skipped this question

Q77

(OPTIONAL) Share with Public

Respondent skipped this question

Q78

Email Copy

Please email a copy of my completed submission to the campaign email address. I understand it may take 24-48 hours (or more) for my completed submission to be emailed.
