

Questions for Georgetown Independent School

- **How do you define the role of a trustee?**

to provide local, citizen governance and oversight of education. That being said - the school board must

- **Adopt goals and priorities and monitor success**
- **Adopt policies and review for effectiveness**
- **Hire and evaluate the superintendent**
- **Adopt a budget and set a tax rate**
- **Communicate with the community:**
 - The board **holding high expectations for student learning** and communicating those expectation through the district's vision and goals
 - The **board staying engaged with the student learning goals** through regular goal progress monitoring

- **What makes you passionate about education?**

I have dedicated my career and life to children.

- I worked 30 years in education in a variety of roles
- and 23 of those years were here in GT.
- continued mentoring children,
- working with parents with special needs children,
- and have had contracts with TEA and law firms to do mentoring and training in other districts across the state.
- I continue to serve on the Board with the B&GC and facilitate a Jr. Leadership program to provide real world experiences to kids.
- **Elected Trustees are part of what is called **the Team 8. This** refers to the concept of trustees working with the superintendent to implement policy. What makes you uniquely qualified to help the trustees achieve the district's direction from a team perspective?**

I would not have been successful at my job if I was not able to collaborate with different perspectives. I **would be an independent voice but ...**

- What is important is **having all the information** and
- **open dialog** in order to make informed decisions.
- I understand the process and difficulties of "school" and education.
- I understand all the moving parts.
- I understand where to find the data.
- I know what questions to ask so I can make a decision that I think would be appropriate. I would encourage all the trustees to do the same. Let's put it all on the table.

- **How do you build consensus with fellow trustees to help shape the direction of improving GISD?**

At this point test scores, teacher moral, appropriate consistent supports for kids across the district is a concern. -

I would not be running if there were not concerns in the community who pulled me from retirement.

I have been the President, chair, spokesperson for many organizations over my career and lifetime.

I would not have been asked to fulfill those roles if I could not work with a team.

We are all in this together for the children. Our primary purpose is to educate ALL the children.

- **How do you define College, Career and Military readiness?**

We have many wonderful things going on at our high school level and those are often showcased in publications and media - rightly so. It is great that we have middle school students who are able to get high school credits. My own daughter was an EMT and CNA when she graduated and my son a pilot. What great opportunities.

It is imperative that all high school students have access to high-quality pathways to career and college which includes the military and trade schools. How do we do that?

I would like us to expand some of awareness of these pathways to the elementary and middle school levels. Theme Days, college and career days, etc.

I had a Jr. Leadership student a few years back ... after Government Day...

- **As Georgetown ISD continues to grow, what do you think is the biggest challenge facing the school district?**

- The growth of Georgetown is not actually in the schools but in the community.
- 1600 new students over 10 Years from 2009-2019 - some districts grow that much in 1 year.
- So one of the challenges is actually attracting the families that do move here to enroll their children in the public system.
- Another challenge is to make sure that the numbers are balanced across the district. Getting it right on day 1 is difficult and sometimes we have to move teachers from one campus to the other - demographers do not always get it right.

- **Given the extraordinary impact COVID has had on our schools and community, what specific experience and skills would you bring as a trustee to support the district during this unique time and what is the role of the trustee in the decision-making process?**
- Right now I would say that the trustees must be candid and transparent with every decision
- give a unified message to the community, parents, staff.
- Trustees will be held accountable for the decisions made so be clear about them and honest about pitfalls and hurdles.
- I would encourage we take a proactive approach moving forward into the Spring and plan for the worst case scenario and have
- open discussions around this in collaboration with the leadership team and staff.

- **What can GISD do to be the first choice of education for Georgetown residents?**

- Until our scores are better and we demonstrate on paper that we offer a quality education, parents will not move here or they will not send their students to school here.
- Right now - whether you are checking TEA, Children at Risk, or Great Schools .org - none are very favorable to GISD.
- Improve the educational experience for all kids. We must demonstrate that all children will get the same quality educational experience regardless of what special program the child needs or grade level.
- Goals must come from the top and the course set for each campus as a collaborative.
- The campuses can have their own culture and climate - but the expectations and supports must be unified. In talking with parents and teachers across the district - each campus is a ship unto themselves and sometimes they feel untethered.

- **What is the role of bonds in relation to funding for school districts?**

Education bonds are voter-approved funds that can only be used for school facilities. Districts collect this money by taxing property owners on the assessed value of their properties.

- **What is the role of GISD in closing the skills gap and utilizing community resources?**

- The first step is for community and district leaders to make community engagement a priority and set up an infrastructure to implement that commitment. Full throttle engagement
- Communicate proactively in the community.
- Find ways to INFORM the community
- employed traditional and nontraditional communication tools and events: from mailings and newsletters to blogs and email, from open houses and workshops. The State of the District is an excellent forum as well.
- Listen to the community and respond to its feedback. Turnaround initiatives chose to INQUIRE of their communities—through conversations, public forums, surveys and focus groups—in order to understand and address local issues and concerns .
- Communication and engagement are more effective when the leadership listens to feedback from parents and the community and responds to their questions and concerns .
- Community members are more likely to trust the initiative when they see their feedback incorporated into the turnaround work, and changes made as a result. We must go to where the parents and the community is!
- Meetings I have been in the past were not really listening meetings- we were always guided to an end result.

- **How do you define quality public education outcomes?**

- **Quality education enables people to develop all of their attributes** and skills to achieve their potential as human beings and members of society.
- ... **Quality education is** a human right and a public good. **A child must feel safe, valued, and be educated.**
- Address Disproportionality in discipline across the board. Pull down the data for every campus every 9 weeks. Give the SEL counselors and staff more authority to initiate training in this area.
- Greater emphasis on restorative justice with alternative discipline methods rather than detention or suspension.
- Curriculum development and classroom priorities should focus on EACH students' individual success. A Compassionate and understanding school environment is likely to reduce the need for the over use of zero tolerance policies. You must make an investment in a child before a withdrawal.