



## Questions for Candidates for School Board Trustee from the Conservative Coalition of Harris County

This questionnaire will be posted onto the Conservative Coalition of Harris County website for public viewing ([www.cchc-pac.org](http://www.cchc-pac.org)).

Candidate Name	Position that Candidate is Running For
J. Carter Breed	Spring Branch ISD Trustee pos. 5

Candidates please give your answer to each of the following questions and include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise and clear.

1. Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you to serve on the board of education? If elected, what will be your priorities?

**Answer:** I grew up in the district and had a great childhood. I wanted to give back in order to improve our district and make it the best it can be. I am currently serving in my second term as SBISD Trustee. I have contributed to and want to see through the work we have done with regards to the CTE Bond, and furthering our student improvement across the district to reach our single goal of T24. Also, I am wanting to continue to work through and fight the lawsuit currently against us. T24 Goal- That every student graduate from High School and go on to further their education by achieving a technical certificate, military training, or a two-year or four-year degree. A student these days must be better prepared when entering the world of work.
  
2. Are you running with any organized slate of candidates? Have you received any donations or endorsements from any group(s)? If so, which groups? How will you promote your school board candidacy?

**Answer:** no slate. I have not publicly sought or received donations yet. I have not sought endorsements but have a strong following. Promotion through signs, email campaigns, calls and facebook.
  
3. What experience or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member? In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved? What differentiates you from the other candidates and/or board members?

**Answer:** I have a successful business in Real Estate. Knowledge of this community and my honed negotiating skills have allowed me to build consensus within the board which has led to stronger relationships. I have served on numerous committees over the years, including CIT, DIT, Bond committees and

supported numerous schools financially through PTA's and booster clubs. I have served on the executive committee of the Spring Branch Edu. Foundation, which gives back to the students and teachers of SBISD through scholarships and grants. I most recently served on 2017 and 2022 bond committees. I am currently serving as a trustee in SBISD. I am intimately aware of the complex issues that our district faces because of my service. I am a trusted voice of reason with extensive knowledge of matters at hand. My personality leans towards problem solving and consensus building rather than causing strife and discord.

4. What issues do you believe your district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

**Answer:** We are making great progress in addressing our learning loss from covid. We need to continue with a focus on literacy and numeracy in order to improve. We also need to bring our EL student's performance in line with other students. This also falls in line with the focus and further development of literacy and numeracy initiatives.

5. What is the proper role of TASA and TASB with respect to independent school boards? Do you believe there should be mask or vaccine mandates in public school? Where should these mandates originate, if at all?

**Answer:** TASB offers training, guidance, to school board members and promotes student success. TASA offers training and education to administrators. I don't believe in mask or vaccine mandates. State level should originate.

6. What is a school board member's role and responsibility? How does that role differ from the role of the superintendent or administration? What is the best way to address differences of opinion on the board or between the board and the administration?

**Answer:** The board's purpose is to look and plan for the future, to provide and set policy and governance, and to provide the Superintendent with the tools needed for success. The superintendent is management and the board is not. The Board as a whole has one employee and that is the superintendent. Best ways to address differences of opinion are to calmly discuss and never attack. Listen to each other and come up with a plan that is best for students. StudentsFirst!

7. Is your superintendent's and other high-level administrator's compensation in line with job performance? Why or Why not?

**Answer:** Yes, we receive information on salary ranges from TASB and review to stay competitive. We just increased our superintendent's contract and gave some incentive pay.

8. Is the current funding allocation within district spending categories (between administration, facilities, teachers, etc.) adequate? Why or Why not? If not, what areas of spending can be changed and how do you propose to correct it? Should

resources be devoted to political lobbying?

**Answer:** Our budget is about 85% focused on instruction. Our issue is recapture, and we are currently sending back 20% (about \$70MM this year) of the budget to the state. As individuals, we are currently preparing for lobbying in the next legislative session. I do think a small investment in this area could allow us to keep funds locally instead of sending so much to the state in recapture.

9. What are your thoughts on the current and the proposed budget for your school district? As a board member, where would you look to make budget cuts? Are there any areas you would not consider cutting? How would you determine your budget priorities?

**Answer:** We have gone to zero based budgeting and trying to keep our cost down. We are consistently looking for areas to cut that will not affect student learning and success. I look at needs and achievement or lack of achievement and where we might direct monies.

10. What is the public relations role of the board? How can the board be accessible to the community? To specific community groups? How can a board of education best communicate with its constituent groups?

**Answer:** To be available to listen. We are the link between the community and the administration. We always try to be transparent and to be available to the community for feedback. We involve our community in many aspects such as bonds. We have an upcoming event called Super Saturday which is termed "Unity in the Community"

11. What is your long-term strategy or strategies for improving the quality of education and keeping pace with student growth within the district?

**Answer:** I personally have been working on our CTE program and building it to a world class program because we have been behind. We are currently going out for a CTE bond which will further our T24 Goal. Related, I am focused long term on literacy and numeracy in order to improve student outcomes and our T24 Goal.

12. What are your areas of concern regarding student achievement in your district? Do you have specific suggestions for improvement? Given all the issues that arise, how can the board stay focused on student achievement?

**Answer:** With all the other chatter, this has been a concern to keep everyone focused on student achievement. Setting our strategic framework around our goal and then measuring constantly what headway kids are making, has allowed us to adjust and bring focus where needed on student achievement. I think areas of concern are the EL program- We are addressing through the budget for additional teachers or staff . Social emotional support- we are addressing by adding more counselors . Covid learning loss- We are directing money to learning loss and we are beating the state and regional averages in this area. Still work to be done.

13. Is teacher performance adequate within your district? Are teacher's salaries adequate given current state budget conditions? What can be done to improve

overall teacher performance? What is your opinion of teacher morale in the district? Do you know the current teacher turnover rate?

**Answer:** Generally, our teacher's performance is good. I talk to the administration or Superintendent often about what we need to do with any teacher, principal or administrator that is under-performing. The Superintendent is on top of this. I would like to see teacher salaries improve. We watch our surrounding districts and try to stay above or inline with them in order to be competitive on salaries. The turnover rate for teachers is rising. Quite frankly we have to love on them and we work hard to make them all a part of the Spring Branch family. We need to work on how to keep and attract great teachers because one of our issues has been that the cost of living within our district is high, higher than most teachers can afford. More work to be done here.

14. What type of teacher evaluation system and administrator evaluation system do you support?

**Answer:** We currently use and I believe T-Tess is effective.

15. What issues do you believe your district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

**Answer:** As mentioned, CTE has been a concern and we are actively addressing it. Additionally, we are making headway on student achievement and academic performance which we need to work on. These are measured through information we are receiving from assessment tools such as MAPS and TAPR reports. We are not where we want to be, but we are improving.

16. What are your thoughts on your school district's programs for special education students, English Language Learners (ELL), and gifted students?

**Answer:** We have some work to do with special education and we have just allocated money for improvement in this area. The ELL program is another area that we can improve and we are addressing. One way to improve in this area is to get parent or guardian involvement and we are trying but it's difficult. Our gifted and talented program seems to be successful.

17. How does a school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden? Should Homeschool students be allowed to use publicly funded facilities and equipment?

**Answer:** I want to keep taxes as low as possible. I am a public school advocate and I want every child to succeed but don't know how to allow public funds and private homeschooling to interconnect

18. How do you define Critical Race Theory and its implementation?

**Answer:** CRT is a social structure to teach of racial inequities. This is college (law school curriculum) and should not be in elementary or secondary education.

19. What do you believe about natural/biological male students competing with natural/biological female students in publicly funded athletic programs? Would you support or oppose such programs? What role does public education have in sex education and when, if ever, should it be taught?

**Answer:** I Don't think opposite nat/bio students should be allowed to compete with opposite sex and would oppose it. I think it should be taught at home and the parents should be responsible. Some sex ed. should be taught in middle school. it must be age appropriate.

BY RETURNING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, THE CANDIDATE ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THE ANSWERS ON THE FOREGOING REFLECT THE CANDIDATE'S BEST EFFORTS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTIONNAIRE HONESTLY AND DIRECTLY.

Once this questionnaire has been completed, please email it to: [alex@cchcPI](mailto:alex@cchcPI).

**Please note:** You ***must*** return your questionnaire from the email address to which it was sent. Questionnaires returned from any other email address will be considered fraudulent and will ***not*** be recorded and no answers will be published in the voter's guide. CCHC deems a return from the proper email address as authentication of the correct respondent.