



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).

Candidate Name	Position that Candidate is Running For
Lisa Andrews Alpe	SBISD Board of Trustees, Position 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 am running for the SBISD Board of Trustees because I am a concerned parent and taxpayer. Our district is facing a lawsuit filed by last year's board election loser, Virginia Elizondo. She has alleged that the At Large electoral system violates the Voting Rights Act. She seeks to radically transform our district to Single Member Districts- like HISD has. Our current board has done a poor job of communicating their individual positions on this lawsuit and almost settled the lawsuit last fall until there was community outcry. Our current board, including my opponent, agreed with the Plaintiff to delay our May election to November, completely betraying public trust. In addition, our district has emphasized Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) over student performance in literacy and numeracy. 57% of children in our district currently do not meet state expectations for reading. If elected, my priorities will be ensuring that our district zealously defends this lawsuit, refocus district priorities on reading, writing and math and ensure accountability to these goals and eliminate educational consultants that push ideology over education.

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: I am not running with an organized slate of candidates, but there are two other candidates with whom I share education ideology. I have received endorsements from Commissioner Tom Ramsey, Commissioner Jack Cagle, and City Councilwoman Mary Nan Huffman. I am currently promoting my candidacy by writing a blog about issues facing our district, attending board meetings, attending community events, hosting meet and greet events, block walking, and a social media presence.

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 am a practicing attorney and have been licensed for 25 years. I worked for the Harris County District Attorney's Office for 13 years and now am in private practice. I am a parent of 3 children who have attended and currently attend SBISD schools (2020 graduate, a freshman and an 8th grader). I have lived in the community for more than 20 years. I have been a volunteer coach for many years for SBMSA. What differentiates me from my opponent is my willingness to be transparent with the community about my position on issues; I would never betray the public trust by siding with a liberal plaintiff and her lawyers behind closed doors. Unlike my opponent, I did not endorse Virginia Elizondo in last year's election nor did I support suppressing voters' voices by delaying our May election.

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

Answer: SBISD's student performance in some schools is failing. We need to ensure our students learn English and that students are reading on or above grade level. In order to achieve that goal, I would look at reducing administrative positions and adding professionals and support staff in the classrooms to create a smaller class size in K-3 for those struggling schools.

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: TASA and TASB are organizations which advise and support school trustees and administrators. I am strongly against mask and vaccine mandates in public education.

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: A trustee's role and responsibility is to set the district goals and vision and provide accountability to those goals. A trustee's role is to hire and supervise the superintendent. In addition, a trustee provides oversight to the budget, sets a tax rate and should be open and transparent with its community. The best way to address differences of opinion is to communicate openly and transparently, not hide behind lawyers and not pass the buck to the administration.

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

Answer: Yes, their salaries are competitive and in line with performance.

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:** The current funding allocation within district spending categories is adequate as there seems to be an acceptable balance in these categories. I will continue to examine our budget to determine if there are areas of improvement. With each budget year, the district will be facing different challenges depending on the amount of recapture. I believe parents make the biggest impact in lobbying efforts at the state level especially as it relates to 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:** The SBISD budget is largely determined by the State's recapture formula and our district will send increasing amounts of money to the State of Texas in the next few years which will present tremendous challenges to SBISD. Money spent on outside, educational consultants with a focus on SEL, DEI and social agendas will be eliminated from the budget. I would always prioritize competitive salaries for high qualified teachers.
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:** The board should be transparent with the community. After all, the board represents the community, not the administration. Currently, these lines are blurred in SBISD where our current board does not feel they have to inform the community about matters which are important to the community. I would like to see more question and answer sessions about big decisions and relevant topics much like the board does when promoting a bond on the upcoming ballot.
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:** Of course I will continue to learn about strategies to improve the quality of education, but what I do know is that our students are spending too much time each day devoted to SEL and not enough time on the fundamentals of reading and math.
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:** My specific area of concern currently is that we are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on educational consultants like Ed Fuel and Panorama. These for-profit consultants are very open about their social justice ideologies and push these agendas through curriculum, books and surveys. They are also playing an outsized role in HR training and hiring.

13. Is teacher performance adequate within your district? Are teacher's salaries adequate given current state budget condition? 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:** Teacher performance and salaries are adequate; however, adequate is not the standard I would aim to achieve. Within the framework of fiscal responsibility and an effective budget, teacher pay and incentives need to be competitive for the Houston area as attracting and retaining the best teachers is key to student achievement. Teacher morale is very poor across our country as teachers have had to act as health code enforcers as well as teachers over the past two years. Overall teacher performance can improve with a merit-based incentive system.
14. What type of teacher evaluation system and administrator evaluation system do you support?
- Answer:** I support a merit-based evaluation system.
15. What issues do you believe your district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?
- Answer:** The most important thing that SBISD needs to do is to create a consistent curriculum across the district to ensure that every child in the district has access to a rigorous curriculum. While program selection may differ by the interest level of the students at each school, the fundamental foundations of education- reading, writing and math- should be consistent and challenging no matter what school you attend.

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

Answer: SBISD needs to make improvements for these special student populations. According to news sources, administrators continue to be pressured to lower special education enrollment numbers and this is wrong. Every child deserves a quality education. I would like to increase transparency and understanding around Child Find with both district and parents. My goal is to prevent any capping of GT enrollment and/or acceleration numbers in this group as well. Parents need to be properly, not selectively, informed of programs and testing options available to their students. I support certifications and training for interventionists and diagnosticians so students can reach their academic potential.

There need to be improvements made to our ELL program as English fluency is one of the keys to improved student performance. One of the largest employers in the world, Amazon, requires their job applicants to pass an English proficiency exam in order to be hired for all positions. Within state law, SBISD needs to encourage the importance of immersion for best student outcomes. On the ballot this May is a bond package for Career and Technical Education (CTE) improvements across the district. Students who do not speak fluent English will struggle to pass important certifications in these programs limiting their opportunities after graduation.

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: A school board can balance providing a quality education with a responsible taxpayer burden by insisting on accountability with fiscal management along with student performance and merit-based education. Yes, homeschool students should be allowed to use publicly funded facilities and equipment.

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

Answer: CRT is an ideology which seeks to divide people by race.

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: Biological males should not compete with biological females in publicly funded athletic programs. I would strongly oppose such programs. Public education has a limited role in sex education and only should be taught with written parental permission.

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@cchc-pac.org.

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.