



## 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
Ed Kaczinski	Spring Branch ISD Trustee position 6

*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'm running for SBISD Board of Trustee's Position 6 to serve the district as a leader who will insure all the children in SBISD get a the best educational opportunities possible. I am motivated by a number of issues which are my priorities if elected. My priorities include expanding on the great programs that already exist in SBISD and push for improvement across the district, addressing teacher retention issues, and holding the district accountable to conservative fiscal spending.
  
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 part of any slate of candidates. I have not (and will not) take donations from any PACS or other groups. I will promote my candidacy through word of mouth, personal interactions, print advertising, internet, and speaking engagements.
  
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 Marine Corps veteran and director for a financial services company. I have served as a PTA president and volunteer at schools for 8 years as well as serving on district committees. My years of experience as a leader in the Marine Corps and in business will be an asset to board if I'm elected. My experiences leading PTA and service on campus and district level committees gives me a unique, first hand perspective of what is needed in our schools.

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

**Answer:** There are many children in our district that still are not performing at grade level in math and literacy. More should be done to improve on reading, writing, math, and science.

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 don't have any formal role in independent school boards but can serve as a resource for information if a board or members of a board wanted to use them. I do not believe there should be mask or vaccine mandates. If there were to be mandates that should be decided by each independent school board.

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 school board member role is to approve the budget, hire a superintendent and provide an agenda and oversight to insure the district implements the district's agenda and TEA, and other state rules. The superintendent and administration are responsible for executing and administering the budget approved by the board and implements any programs or curriculum required by TEA. The best way to address differences of opinion between the board and administration or among the board members is through discussion among the board and administration that is open and transparent to the voters in the district.

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

**Answer:** Yes. The district has done a good job of managing through Covid. Student performance in reading, writing, math, and science has been better than average and learning loss due to Covid has been less than most other districts in the state.

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 funding allocations within the district spending categories are reasonable. Most of the money in the budget (more than 85%) is spent on salaries and benefits. If there were less recapture money going back to the State of Texas, I would propose allocating that money to increasing teacher's salaries and expanding programs that are already successful. No district resources should be devoted to political lobbying unless in an effort to reduce the state recapture or increase funding.

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 current and proposed budget is handicapped by the recapture dollars that are paid to the State of Texas. Given the amount directed to the state through recapture, there is no room to make budget cuts. My budget priorities would be focused on making sure as much money as possible is going to class room resources, teacher salaries, and proven programs as possible.

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 has a responsibility to be transparent in its decisions, available to parents and voters, and make sure the district voters are aware of things happening within the district. The board can be accessible through open forums (meetings, town halls, etc.) and should always be prepared to respond to all constituency questions. The board's best way to communicate is through open meetings and consistent written and electronic communication.

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:** My long term strategy for improvement would be to assess what our school district does well, where our greatest successes are and then determine how to support growing those successful conditions across the entire district. In addition to replicating current successes the district needs to continue to invest in teachers and resources to provide more of its successful programs to more students throughout the district.

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 areas of concern are in the learning loss realized from Covid and the disparities in outcomes across our district. It's not good enough to be better than or on par with other districts, we should strive to improve on performance, even good performance, across the entire district. The board can stay focused by allocating specific time to address reading, writing, math, and science as priorities in each session and using committee structures as much as possible to inform other decisions.
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:** Teacher performance is adequate and given stated budget, salaries are acceptable. The best way to improve teacher performance is to provide them with the tools and resources to do the job correctly. Teacher morale in the district is pretty good overall but we still face high attrition. I don't know the specific turnover rate.
14. What type of teacher evaluation system and administrator evaluation system do you support?
- Answer:** Any system used to evaluate administrators and teachers has to be primarily focused on learning outcomes in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science.
15. What issues do you believe your district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?
- Answer:** I believe our district offers several great choice type programs (such as CTE) that are very successful but there are not enough of them. I would recommend expanding as many of those programs as it is fiscally possible to support.
16. What are your thoughts on your school district's programs for special education students, English Language Learners (ELL), and gifted students?
- Answer:** Our district needs to do more to support special education and ELL students. Sufficient support is available for students who wish to, and qualify to participate in gifted or similar programs.

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:** The district gets specific funding based on enrollment size and make up of population from the state to pay salaries and expenses. This is beyond the control or scope of the school board. The school board can ask local taxpayers to approve bonds to cover additional costs for things like campus improvements and programs. It is ultimately up to the taxpaying residents to decide if the district is asking for reasonable funding to accommodate what the taxpayers want to be provided by the district. 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 a college level study/curriculum that should not be taught in public schools, grades K through 12.

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 believe natural/biological male students should compete with natural/biological female students in publicly funded athletic programs unless things have been done to "level the playing field". I would be opposed to programs like this where there's not clear scientific evidence that the natural/biological male student does not maintain some physical advantages. I believe it is appropriate for basic sex education to be taught in schools but only at an age appropriate level.

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](mailto: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.