



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
Shawn Miller	Katy ISD School Board

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 School Board Trustee? Is there a particular issue that motivates you to serve on the school board? If elected, what will be your priorities?

Answer: I am running for Katy ISD Board of Trustees because I care about our community and education. As a father of three children, my wife and I have lived in Katy for over eighteen years. We love our community. Our family has experienced many aspects of Katy ISD through our children's involvement in athletics, band, art, journalism, and academics. I am running for this position because I want to give back to our great community.

My top priority has four components. The first component is safety; all students, teachers, and staff should feel safe. Secondly, my priority is for student success. Students should be prepared for their goals, whether that is college, career, or military. The third area is to support teachers. Our teachers should be well paid and given the resources they need to teach. The last component is sustainability, which includes fiscal responsibility and planning for future growth.

2. What experience or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member? What differentiates you from the other candidates and/or board members? In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?

Answer: I have over twenty years of experience in education and have received several awards including two Faculty Excellence Awards and the Outstanding Accounting Education Award for Teachers in Texas. I have Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), which includes research conducted on finances for nonprofits. I am currently a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with Big Four accounting experience auditing public corporations. I have also been involved in Katy ISD through the following programs: served on the KISD Community Bond Committee; volunteered for the WatchDog program; served as a KEYS mentor; volunteered with Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

3. What are your thoughts on the current and the proposed budget for your school district? What issues do you believe your district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

Answer: The budget for technical programs should be increased. The Miller Technical Center cannot accommodate all the students that would like to pursue classes at the center. In addition, more funding should be used for safety related resources on the school campuses. Several high schools have been in the news for violence; this issue should be addressed through a larger allocation in the budget.

4. 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 any resources be devoted to political lobbying?

Answer: I believe that more funding should be used to hire additional teachers. Class caps should be lowered so that teachers are not overwhelmed with too many students in their classes. Resources should not be devoted to lobbying because the school budget involves taxpayer dollars.

5. What are your areas of concern regarding student achievement in your district? Do you have specific suggestions for improvement? What is your long-term strategy or strategies for improving the quality of education and keeping pace with student growth within the district?

Answer: One of the major concerns regarding achievement is attendance. After the pandemic attendance has become a challenge faced by students. I believe the pre-pandemic attendance policy needs to be reinstated or reviewed to ensure that students are being held accountable for absences. Currently there is no enforcement mechanism in place for students who have excessive absences. This needs to change so that students who missed a significant number of days are held accountable for unexcused absences.

The school district should plan bonds to fund new schools to keep pace with the growth in the district. Bonds funds should be approved by a committee comprised of individuals in the community and there should be a high level of transparency in how the bond funds will be used.

6. 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 and morale?

Answer: As a teacher for over twenty years, I believe all teachers can improve. Therefore, professional development opportunities should be provided to teachers to help them improve.

I believe teachers' salaries are not adequate given the current economy. Inflation has reached record levels; however, salaries have not kept up with inflation. I believe a great work environment, professional development, and teacher support resources can help improve moral and overall teacher performance.

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

Answer: I believe a 360 evaluation system is one way to evaluate both teachers and administrators. This system provides feedback from supervisors, peers, and students to evaluate performance from several perspectives.

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

Answer: The superintendent's salary is in line with comparably sized school districts. Katy ISD has a very high ranking in the Houston area, therefore the compensation for the superintendent and high-level administrators should be higher than low ranking ISDs.

9. What is the public relations role of the board? How can the board be accessible to the community? How can a board of education best communicate with its constituent groups? Should Homeschool students be allowed to use publicly funded facilities and equipment?

Answer: I believe that communication is critical between the Board of Trustees and the school community. This type of communication must include transparency and honesty. This can be accomplished through communication policies such as public relations, public participation in board meetings, social media, and media relations.

Homeschool students should be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, music, theatre, and arts. These families pay for public school facilities through property taxes and state taxes just like public school families.

10. 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 should help administrators and school board members by providing resources to help them be successful in their position.

Teachers, staff, and students should not be mandated to wear a mask or have vaccine mandates in public schools. Parents should have the right to decide if their child should wear a mask or have a vaccine.

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

Answer: I believe this theory has created divisive ideas about race, collective guilt for dominant groups, and assigned racial significance to seemingly neutral concepts. I do not support its implementation. I believe we should be teaching concepts in school that unite people together. This theory does not do that.

12. 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?

Answer: I believe sports should be divided by biological males (XY) and biological females (XX). It is scientifically proven that biological males have statistically more muscle than biological females, which creates a large advantage in sports. Therefore, I believe this distinction in athletics fosters an environment of fair competition within the two programs.

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.*