



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
Shana Peterson	Katy ISD Board of Trustee – 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 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: This is an opportunity for me to give back and serve my community using my knowledge and skill set. I believe my experience in education would be an asset to the board. I would enjoy being part of the Katy ISD school board to develop shared goals and expectations for the district. My top priorities are retaining and recruiting teachers and school staff, the physical and mental well-being of students, and community involvement/engagement.

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 recently retired from the Texas public school system after 31 years of service, 17 of those years right here in Katy ISD. I have teaching experience in both general and special education and held leadership roles in the departments of dyslexia and special education. In Katy ISD, the majority of my career was working as an educational diagnostician to determine why students were struggling to learn and ways to help them overcome these challenges. In addition, I participated in helping develop the special education operating guidelines, various training documents, and served on campus advisory boards. Throughout my years of working within Katy, I have spent time in over 80% of the schools within the district. Community organizations I have been involved in include the Junior League, Fort Bend Education Foundation, TEDA, and Hou-Met. I attend Saint Faustina Catholic Church and I'm looking forward to becoming more involved now that I'm retired.

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: Information that has been published in the public domain indicates the budget appears to be balanced. There will always be questions on where the budget is spent but I was encouraged to see that the district had allocated funds for a staff retention incentive to take effect this month. As I've stated previously teacher retention is a priority of mine and today, we are ahead of the state in retaining teachers. This continues to be a critical step in improving our district. CCMR (College, Career, and Military Readiness) is an area that could be improved. Increasing dual credit opportunities and expanding the ROTC program are suggestions for improvement in this area.

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: Katy ISD has received an A rating from the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas. This rating system looks at the allocation of funds for direct instructional purposes. Based on this information the allocation of funds appears appropriate. However, the district needs to continue to be vigilant and prioritize spending on the students and their instruction. School districts do not need to allocate funds for contracted lobbyist. If the district has major concerns that need to be communicated in person the superintendent or their designee could advocate for the district.

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: The loss of learning in math due to COVID is an area of concern not just in Katy ISD. Additional hours of instruction in math are being implemented to combat this issue. Long-term strategies for improving education and student growth would include retaining and recruiting staff and working collaboratively with teachers, parents, and community members.

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:** Teacher performance is appropriate and salaries are comparable with similar surrounding districts, however; we need to continue to secure competitive compensation packages which include salaries and benefits. In addition, we need to ensure teachers have the resources and support they need. Which includes having opportunities to attend workshops and conferences. Speaking from experience, gratitude and teacher recognition goes a long way when boosting the morale for educators. This can be a wonderful opportunity to involve the community and PTOs. We need to empower teachers so they can do what they do best....TEACH.
7. What type of teacher evaluation system and administrator evaluation system do you support?
- Answer:** Appraisals need to be a summative evaluation of performance using a rubric with expectations indicated clearly. Appraisals should be used as a tool to promote growth, success, and encouragement.
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 compensation package appears to be commensurate with districts that have similar student enrollment, school district ranking, and years of experience.
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:** The public relations role of the board is to connect with the community and communicate effectively to constituents. This is done by being accessible, attending school and community events, listening to the public, and delivering information to the public. In terms of homeschooling dos and don'ts this is complicated. I personally feel that if the parents elect to turn down public education, then the majority of facilities and equipment should not be accessible. There are many concerns involved such as safety, staff, and logistics. Students and the school could be at risk.

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:** The role of TASA and TASB should be to support and serve Texas school boards. I do not believe masks or COVID vaccines should be mandated in public schools. Now with this being said I do believe that the mandatory vaccines that have been in place and have proven to be highly successful in reducing outbreaks should remain mandatory.
11. How do you define Critical Race Theory and do you support its implementation?
- Answer:** I have asked this same question to people and no one defines Critical Race Theory the same way. What I believe as an educator, teachers teach history and facts. It is not the job of educators to impose their personal beliefs on students. In addition, the state of Texas has outlined instructional requirements regarding this concern.
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:** Public school children should compete in athletics based on the sex they were assigned at birth. My view on this is not to discriminate but rather to protect and instill fairness when competing.

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.