



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
Jack "Joaquin" Velasquez	Position 7 KISD 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 decided to run, as I can't believe I am looking at bullet proof backpacks for my sons. I want to know that our schools have the infrastructure and personal to keep our kids safe while at school. I am running because I see the equity resolution that the current board supports and for me it just seems like a regurgitated way to bring in CRT. I think as a culture, and society we can all agree on equal opportunity, but to try and ensure equal outcome is impossible. I am running for our teachers who need a school board that will stand behind them. For me the priorities if elected are security, education, and our teachers

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: As of right now I am just an alumnus from Klein oak, proud parent of two daughters that are alumni from Klein High school, and current parent of two young boys (2nd and 3rd Grade) in the Klein system. I am currently running on my own with no PAC behind me.

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: In my career have held the position as an operations manager at a large oil and gas company, so I have experience in optimizing, and allocating of funds for expenditures, and improvement projects. I am also a veteran.

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

Answer: From the website publicschoolreview.com I see the district average math proficiency is reported at 50% and reading proficiency of 51%, I think that failing 50%, and 49% of our kids in these two areas needs to be addressed ASAP. Think before we ask for funds to build new stadiums, we need to ensure academic standards are improved.

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: As a resource the ideas and programs from TASA, and TASB should always be investigated. If things that have proven successful by the TASA, and TASB benefit Klein ISD than those ideas and programs should be brought into committee for a vote to be investigated/implemented. Do I think mask mandates or vaccinations should be held in Klein, No! I think health decision such of those should be up to the parent of the child up until he/she reaches the age of 18, and then can than decide for themselves

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 should be approving the budget, overseeing the superintendent, ensure the district implements the agenda of the TEA, and other state rules. The superintendent executes and administrates the budget approved by the board. The superintendent also implements programs, and curriculum required by TEA. Difference of opinions of the board should be handled in a respectful manner, but with clear transparency to the public. The current board appears to never disagree as all the recent votes have been unanimous. So, either the current board agrees 100% of the time, or in fact one or two people are driving the current board. I think the purpose of a board is to have different opinions and disagreement that foster different ideas and opinions to help find the best solutions. Groupthink is not a good thing, and what has made this country what it is today is the melting pot of different idea and cultures.

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

Answer: These are state funded positions and should be more in line with the state employee pay scale for position for similar roles and responsibility.

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: I think funding should be first and foremost on our children security both infrastructure and personal. Secondly, we need to spend money on ways and programs to raise the academic standards higher. Finally, and equally important we need to ensure that our teachers are taken care of. No money should be allocated to political lobbying.

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: I would like to really look at the bid process and how it works. Think more transparency is needed for the voters of what companies are being allocated the work being done for our schools. My budget priorities would be first and foremost the security and protection of our children and 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 available to the public and representation of its constituents. Think concerns should be addressed and be investigated, with actions report available after the fact, and in a timely manner.

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 first assess what are the school district, strength, things on par, and things we can improve. Of the thing we need improvement on, where can we get the biggest bang for our dollar and attack that first. As a district we should always be striving for continuous improvement.

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 I think I stated earlier, is that we are failing our students who are only at 50% math proficient, and 49% ready proficiency. Think we should either look to districts that are scoring higher than that and see what programs they have that are working, or how are they attaining higher standards

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: Pay is on par with surrounding districts, but I think a bonus programs based on test scores, graduation rates, attendance could help improve performance
14. What type of teacher evaluation system and administrator evaluation system do you support?
Answer: Administrators should be evaluated by the teachers they lead and support, as culture reflects leadership
15. What are your thoughts on your school district's programs for special education students, English Language Learners (ELL), and gifted students?
Answer: I believe our district offers several great programs.
16. 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 think keeping a balance budget and not overspending is fiscally responsible of the districts to its taxpayers. Parents of the children being homeschooled pay taxes, so their kids should have access to school resources that their children are zoned too.
17. How do you define Critical Race Theory and its implementation?
Answer: CRT is a subject that should be studied as it was intend to at a collegiate level. CRT has no business in our curriculum and should not be taught in elementary, jr high, or high school public schools.
18. 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: Some inherit biological advantages are too much to overcome, perhaps a third division is the answer? Allowing biological born males to compete against biological females' is unfair. I think it is the responsibility of the parent to teach sexual education at appropriate age of 13, as this is when most children start puberty

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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.