



## 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
Jennifer Kratky	Tomball ISD Trustee, Position 3

Candidates please give your answer to each of the following questions and include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise and clear.

- 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 absolutely love Tomball ISD. My ultimate motivation is my kids, who are currently enrolled at elementary and junior high campuses. I want to be in a position to strongly protect the traditional values here, while also maintaining academic and extracurricular excellence. After regularly attending the school board meetings over the past 2 years, I noticed that it was very difficult to register to testify, the atmosphere in general seemed unwelcoming, and that I never had opportunity to interact with board members casually. It will be a priority of mine to make myself more accessible to parents, and I have several ideas for that.

- 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:** Myself and Billy Moore teamed up early on because our message is the same: Christian conservative, parents of young children, running against 20-year incumbents. We were introduced to each other a few months ago by mutual friends who knew us both very well from church and education-related activities. More recently we have also begun to partner on some things with Stephanie Lopez, as we have gotten to know her qualifications, heart and intentions in this process.

No, I have not received any donations or endorsements from any groups yet.

Early on, I invested time and resources in creating a quality website so that voters could easily find information about me and my beliefs. This is something that I had never seen before from Tomball ISD candidates, and as a voter myself had wished would be available. I've also invested in some signage, paid social media advertising, and plenty of push cards for our block walker volunteers.

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:** What differentiates me is that I have been very “awake” to the threats to our culture being pushed into public schools for several years now. My children were enrolled in Austin ISD when a new transgender-affirming curriculum was adopted in 2019. I never dreamed this would be legal in a Republican state. This put me on a path to learning about our state’s laws, education agencies and organizations, and advocacy groups wielding influence. What I learned, overall, is that our governor is certainly not going to “save” us. The key to protecting our children is to elect a local school board with knowledge of HOW the threats come in and strong fortitude to stand against it.

That is why I joined the Tomball ISD School Health Advisory Council immediately upon moving here in 2020, because I knew that was the avenue used by liberal activists in Austin. Sure enough, we on the Council were asked to approve a new Health textbook this past spring. This **state-approved** book referred to women & mothers only as “pregnant persons” – 49 times! Yet our Council voted 10-3 to approve the book. Even though the school board did listen to me and rejected the book, this proves that they placed the wrong people on the Council. They should have known better the sensitive content this Council oversees, and placed people on it that accurately reflect the values of the community. (You can see my full testimony on the Health textbook on my candidate website).

I’ve been an active parent serving as room mom, chaperoning every field trip throughout my children’s years in school, and serving as a trained reading mentor to several students at a Title 1 campus when told about the need by my church. I’ve also taught Sunday School and VBS for many, many years.

I’ve stayed in touch with education and college-entrance qualifications by interviewing hundreds of high school graduates for scholarship selection, over the past 15 years. More recently I stepped up to serve as an advisory board member for the scholarship foundation, which has a \$500M endowment, is Houston-based, and aids students all over Texas. My term ends this January.

I hold a BBA in Finance from the top-rated business school in Texas, and have prior professional experience as a corporate financial analyst at USAA Financial Services. More recently I served a 5 year term on the finance committee of our (prior) large church, including elected chairmanship during the final year of my term.

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

**Answer:** The main complaint I hear from parents is with the English Language Arts department. I have experienced disappointment myself, with the dearth of reading whole novels at the junior high level, my child being assigned books I don't see much value in, and also being assigned a book in 7<sup>th</sup> grade that she had already done in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents have expressed distaste with certain books, and/or feeling the need to have their kids read over the summer to cover "holes" in their education. I would like to explore the possibility of bringing more classic reading selections back into our ELA curriculums.

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:** I do believe that school board members need some basic training on state laws, and a way to network with other districts they can learn from. But unfortunately TASB has been taking taxpayer money (through member dues paid by districts) and using it to lobby against the interests of parents. A conservative alternative to TASB is currently being built, and I would very much like to be a part of its formation and growth.

I would never vote to impose mask or vaccine mandates on children. Parents should be the decision-makers on matters concerning their children's health. Time has proven the Covid masks and experimental-vaccines didn't even have the protection they were purported to have, especially for children.

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:** Board members are elected to financial oversight responsibility, and to be the voice of We the People. The superintendent and administration are employees paid to carry out their wishes. I know that TASB has trained all Texas board members into a "Team of 8" mentality, but I don't support that. I think it's unfair to have so many discussions behind closed doors, in order to present the prescribed "united front," because it robs the people of knowledge on where each board member stands on important issues. Then citizens don't know who to vote for next time, because differences of opinion are mostly hidden from them.

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

**Answer:** I am not yet privy to employment files, or how job performance is currently being evaluated. But I will say that standardized test scores will not be my only measurement criteria.

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:** There has definitely been a concerning nationwide trend of education administrator positions growing at an insane rate, compared to student and teacher growth. At my own child's elementary campus, I have been incredibly disappointed that there is only one art teacher for 800 students. This is something that I testified to the current board about, approximately 18 months ago, and none of the board members ever contacted me to discuss this issue.
- I have also been told by many teachers that they do not have paper or ink to make the copies that they need. This needs to be fixed immediately. I would much rather make cuts to administrative positions, than to have our classrooms ill-equipped.
- No, I would never approve allocating monies to pay lobbyists. But I would like to personally testify at SBOE and at state legislative committees, as a school board member representing the interests of our local families, if proposed curriculums or policies were against our local values. (Which I have already done several times).
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:** As mentioned above, I would first look at administrative functions.
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:** There are two specific ways that I intend to be more accessible to the community. First I will maintain a social media account where I notify citizens of upcoming agenda items of interest and break them down into layman's terms. (Oftentimes the meeting agendas are very long and/or obfuscated by legal jargon). Second I intend to host townhall-style meetings at each campus, essentially bringing an opportunity to every neighborhood to interact with perhaps 2 board members (non-quorum) in a casual setting. Neither of these things are currently offered by any of the sitting board members, that I am aware of.
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:** It seems we're on a good track for proper building capacity, and I thank the current board members for that! I do know that re-zoning the campus boundaries will be a major upcoming challenge. I intend to provide a process that utilizes accurate demographic forecasts, is fully transparent, and respects family input along the way.

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:** I want to invite parents, grandparents and community members in to help more. One-on-one reading mentors would be very beneficial to our students, and wouldn't cost anything if we have volunteer support. I've also learned about a program to bring chaplains into schools, which again, could utilize volunteers to increase positive role model-interaction for our kids who need a bit of support.

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:** I have heard that teacher turnover has been quite high at particular campuses in our district. This is something I fully intend to investigate. We need to implement an exit survey, for all teachers who leave the district. I would also like to do a truly anonymous (paper and pencil scantron) annual survey of teachers, to be compiled and then delivered directly to the Board. This was an idea given to me by another Texas superintendent who is a cousin and dear friend of mine.

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

**Answer:** This is not something I'm knowledgeable on, yet!

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

**Answer:** I don't have very much knowledge yet on how these areas are operating within our district. I do know that these categories of students all receive higher levels of state funding, so I will ensure those allotments are properly going to the intended 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 have learned that other Texas school districts appoint community members to a financial review committee, to scrutinize spending. This seems appropriate and a good idea, for a multi-million dollar budget.

I do think we have room in some of our extracurricular programs for homeschool students to participate. If they could pay equipment fees to cover nominally incremental costs, and could also beef up our competitiveness in some of our programs, it could be a win-win. (This would not apply to the most popular programs that are already hard to "make the cut" for many students. But some programs could really benefit from more participants, like water polo for example, or some of the music programs.)

17. How do you define Critical Race Theory and its implementation?  
**Answer:** It is essentially a Marxist concept, repackaged in terms of race. Viewing everything in our society through the lens of race. The purpose is to divide us.
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:** Biological males should never be allowed to participate in girls' school sports competitions or use girls' restrooms or locker rooms. As a former varsity high school athlete myself, and the mother of a current junior high girl athlete, I feel very strongly about this. I would never cower to the Biden Administration's threats in this arena. Please note that this very topic (the threat to our federal funding for free lunches) was asked by a citizen during a Tomball ISD school board meeting in June 2022, and the CFO and current Board had no comment.
- There really is nothing in the Texas Constitution that would support sex education in public schools. However, I understand that many parents do want instruction on puberty and hygiene offered at the intermediate/middle school level, and basic information on the risks of pregnancy and STD's offered at the middle/high school level. I support the legislative amendment added in 2021 that requires parental opt-in for these lessons. I will continue (as I actively have for several years) to advocate for sex-education that is rooted in biological facts (free of humanist ideology), and that promotes abstinence as the optimal choice for physical/mental health and future success in life for all students.

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.