



## 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
Justin Ray	Cy-Fair 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.

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 to protect and preserve this great school district that my kids are currently enrolled in and that I am a proud graduate of. The biggest motivating issue for me is for CFISD to become a more Board led District that sets the vision and culture. That will be my first priority. Additional priorities will be a thorough review and action regarding student test scores in math and reading, shoring up parental rights, elimination of politicized curriculum and student discipline.
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 am the only candidate running for Position 3 that has been in elected office and had to answer to constituents. My years as the Mayor of Jersey Village give me key insight in how to implement bold initiatives, deliberate within an elected body and work collaboratively with staff to provide services to a constituency. In addition to serving in office, my wife and I have been involved in our school's PTO, Watchdog volunteer group and Cy-Fair Education Foundation.

3. What are your thoughts on the current and the proposed budget for your school district? Is the current funding allocation within district spending categories adequate between administration, facilities, teachers, etc.?
- Answer:** CFISD's M&O budget is in line with the needs of the community. The current budget increased teacher salaries, which is becoming increasingly important in a competitive employee market. All school districts will continue to struggle with increased inflation and revenue pressures. Capital expenditures and associated debt service will need to be reevaluated with project delays possible in order to minimize property tax impact.
4. 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:** There is a growing concern with reading comprehension and mathematics scores in CFISD (and across the nation). These are the building blocks of education and keys to a career and / or college education. The national response to COVID 19 is a key contributor to this educational disruption but not the sole culprit. I will advocate for School Board work sessions with teacher input on (1) What they identify as factors contributing to these scores (2) Recommended policies to address the issues and (3) Resources needed to improve scores.
5. Is teacher performance adequate within your district? What type of teacher evaluation system and administrator evaluation system do you support? Are the teacher's salaries adequate given the current state budget condition?
- Answer:** As a parent and spouse of a teacher, I am grateful to for the dedication of our public-school teachers. I believe our CFISD teachers are performing well though as a district we need to improve student test scores. There is always room for improvement, and I support a holistic approach to teacher evaluation which continues to include observation, walk throughs and lesson review. Teacher's salaries, though increased recently in CFISD, still tend to be low compared to the private sector and with increased inflationary pressures on family budgets.
6. School curriculum question (DEI) and library Books. Should Homeschool students be allowed to use publicly funded facilities and equipment?
- Answer:** I would need to learn more about how the process would work and how and if other Districts have implemented this kind of policy. Mt first impression is that if Parents are paying property taxes into the public school system, then access to those facilities would be appropriate.

7. Please list in order the following priorities in relation to the role of a K-12 public school (omitting any that do not apply):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Grammar/Vocabulary/Spelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology    | <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sciences                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading & Comprehension     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts             | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Learning         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> US & Texas History        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Education               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art & Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Finances           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Fitness          | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Activism          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies/Geography  | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Race Theory        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language          | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Identity             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Emotional Learning |  |

**Answer:**

Top Tier: Mathematics, Reading & Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling, Language Arts

Second Tier: Information Technology, Sciences, US & Texas History, Art & Music, Social Studies / Geography, Vocational Learning

Third Tier: Physical Fitness, Foreign Language, Personal Finances

Fourth Tier: Social Emotional Learning, Sex Education (Health Class)

No Tier (Not Suitable for Public Ed): Political Activism, CRT, Gender Ideology

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

**Answer:** The compensation for these roles in CFISD is on the high end of what is reasonable. I understand these are demanding roles and top talent command higher compensation. I would not support going above what is currently in place.

9. What is the proper role of TASA and TASB with respect to independent school boards?

**Answer:** CFISD needs to reevaluate its relationship with TASB and determine whether its values are in line with the community. I am open to evaluating TASB's value to CFISD and investigating other options or additional services

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.