



## 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
Christine Kalmbach	Cy-Fair ISD School Board Trustee Position 4

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 a product of the Cy-Fair District and care deeply about our students and their futures. I have lived in the district over 42 years, sending my children through CFISD. As a local business owner and realtor, I am in tune with the desires of the families in the CFISD community, and I am ready to be their voice.

I am passionate about ensuring that all the Cy-Fair students are set up for bright, successful futures. My top priorities are improving student outcomes, increasing parental involvement, and providing teachers with essential resources.

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:** Having served on various boards and committees, ranging from Boy Scouts of America to United Methodist Women's Board, I have cultivated the skills needed to turn constituent concerns into tangible outcomes. I am a fiscal and social conservative dedicated to protecting our children from inappropriate content and extreme agendas. I will prioritize returning to the foundational basics of education and restoring parental rights in the classroom. Through these actions, we can make Cy-Fair ISD effective, enticing parents to send their students to our schools for excellent educational opportunities. As a CFISD former student and parent, I know the heights that the district can take education, and I am committed to raising the bar across the district.

**Boards, Committees, and Other Volunteer Experience:**

- Cy-Fair ISD Volunteer for 26+ Years
- Cy-Fair/Copperfield Women's Club Chair over 16 Years
- Langham Creek YMCA Volunteer for over 11 Years
- Wounded Vets Volunteer for over 6 Years
- Hearthstone Garden Club
- Keller Williams Agent Leadership Council
- Langham Creek Band Boosters
- Holmsley PTO Member and Chair-5th Grade
- Boy Scouts of America Committee Chair - Troop and Pack 827 Board
- Matt Musil Hoops for Kids Board
- Copperfield Westcreek Village Crime Watch Board
- Bear Creek United Methodist Prayer Chair
- United Methodist Women's Board

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:** As one of the largest school districts in Texas, Cy-Fair ISD has an incredibly large budget totaling over 1.2 billion dollars. With that much money and line items, there is bound to be room for improvement. Fiscal responsibility is paramount to the success of the district, and as such, the 4 billion dollars of debt bond that the district has is concerning. We must ensure that taxpayer dollars are being utilized efficiently for our students, not on bureaucratic red tape.

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:** Since 2020, we have seen abysmal testing scores on math and reading exams. This downward trend must be reversed, or we risk losing more students to homeschools, private schools, and other options. Our aim should be to serve as the premier school district in Houston. I would like to do a deep audit of our spending to see where money can be redirected to classroom initiatives that will enhance our students' learning and educational outcomes. Clearly, we have been doing something wrong since the pandemic, and I believe we must use our money efficiently, listen to parents, and provide teachers with necessary resources to help all of our children succeed.

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:** Students, specifically those in elementary school, have been failing the math and reading STAAR Tests at ridiculously high rates. Unfortunately, this does likely indicate inadequate teacher performance or lack of training/resources.

I believe for standardization purposes, all general education (not special education) teachers should be evaluated the same way – based on student grades and standardized testing scores. Of course, the best teachers may have students that struggle, but patterns and trends are easy to spot when using methods such as these.

To retain teachers and be academically competitive, we must maintain teachers' salary levels. Our budget would be in better shape without the state's recapture/Robinhood program.

6. School curriculum question (DEI) and library Books. Should Homeschool students be allowed to use publicly funded facilities and equipment?

**Answer:** Inappropriate books and DEI curriculum have no place in our education system, let alone Cy-Fair ISD. Our children go to school to learn foundational skills and principles to set them up for future success, not woke ideological talking points and vulgarity. We should be pursuing educational excellence for every student at every level.

Homeschool families pay taxes too, so their money does pay for the district's facilities. I believe district activities should be prioritized, but homeschool students should be allowed to transfer into the district more easily. We are trying to attract students not refuse them entry. Welcoming those students on our campuses with use of facilities could entice them to join our district when they see it running efficiently and effectively.

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"/> 2 Mathematics                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1b Grammar/Vocabulary/Spelling     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6a Information Technology              | Duplicate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Sciences                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 1a Reading & Comprehension         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1c Language Arts                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 6b Vocational Learning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3a US & Texas History                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex Education           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4b Art & Music                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Personal Finances                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4a Physical Fitness                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Activism      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3b Social Studies/Geography            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Critical Race Theory    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4c Foreign Language                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Identity         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Social Emotional Learning |   |

**Answer:**

- Reading and Comprehension, Grammar/Vocabulary/Spelling, Language Arts
- Mathematics
- US & Texas History, Social Studies/Geography
- Personal Finances
- Physical Fitness
- Art & Music
- Foreign Language
- Sciences
- Information Technology, Vocational Learning

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

**Answer:** The current superintendent's compensation of over \$594,000+ is significantly higher than that of comparable districts in Texas. I believe the superintendent salary level should be reviewed prior to the hiring of the new superintendent which is set to take place in the next few months. I believe that his or her hiring should take place following the November election because the new board of trustees will be working with the new superintendent.

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

**Answer:** We should not be involved with either of these organizations due to their alignments with liberal ideologies and curricula.

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.