



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
Lesley Guilmart	CFISD Board of Trustees, 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:

As a former CFISD educator, mom of two CFISD students, and wife of a CFISD teacher, I am deeply committed to our schools. After several years of chaos and distractions on the current board, it's time to turn the page and get back to focusing on what matters most: our students.

My priorities:

1. Student safety and success: Allocate resources that clear the path to success for every learner; prioritize student well-being through evidence-based practices.
2. Smart financial decision-making: Push the Board to discuss and fund data-informed programs and services; work to streamline the budget process to prioritize student needs & stakeholder input.
3. Transparency & respect for stakeholders: Aim to reimagine the creation of Board subcommittees to ensure transparency; work to expand existing stakeholder communication channels; provide rationale for decisions.

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 over 20 years of experience in public education in various roles including teacher, administrator, and instructional coach. I know how to get results for students on a shoe-string budget and a ticking clock. For the past several years I have served as president of Cypress Families for Public Schools, a local nonprofit organization with a mission of engaging, informing, and uniting the community behind CFISD. Under my leadership, CFPS has become a trusted messenger and fundraised for school supplies, awarded scholarships, and adopted a Title I campus. I have the skills, experience, and credibility to help get CFISD back on track. Furthermore, I am a current CFISD parent. My opponent is not.

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:

To my knowledge, we do not yet have a proposed budget for the '26-'27 school year. I am disappointed that the Board majority did not have the will to bring back librarian positions for the '25-'26 school year. We have considerable budget constraints, and we need to make sure we're allocating our precious resources to data-informed programs and staffing. That includes having a full-time librarian on each campus.

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:

Broadly speaking, student achievement was strong for the '25-'26 school year. This is a testament to the commitment and resilience of our staff, students, and community. Students made progress despite transportation cuts and shuttered libraries – both brought to us by the current Board. I have a large network of former colleagues among CFISD staff, and I know for a fact that morale is suffering in what has become a culture of fear. My concern is that we cannot sustain these results if staff continue to be afraid and burned out. I want to restore trust and respect to the employees who give so much of themselves to our students. I also want to take a closer look at the performance of our students on IEPs and 504 plans and see what we can do about providing more tailored programming to meet their needs.

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:

Our student achievement data speaks to the excellence of our teachers. The evaluation system is robust. Salaries, however, are not adequate. This is due in large part to lack of adequate funding from the state and the penalty for our Local Homestead Exemption. We are, in fact, the lowest-funded district in our region, per student. I will advocate energetically for solutions when I am Trustee.

6. What are your thoughts about the Texas Legislature (SB 10) authorizing the display of the ten commandments in the classroom?

Answer:

I do not agree with privileging one religious faith over others in our public schools. For optimal learning, students require a welcoming environment where they feel a sense of belonging. Displaying one religion's tenets and not others undermines a welcoming environment.

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):

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

Answer:

As an educator, I cannot rank some of these items as more important than others. Rather, I can rank three broad categories. Please note that political activism, critical race theory, and gender identity are not, to my knowledge, part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and are not taught in our public schools.

1. English Language Arts and Reading
Mathematics
Social Studies / geography / history
Science
Character education
2. Art and Music
Physical education
Foreign Language
Information Technology
Health education
3. Vocational learning
Personal finance

8.

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

Answer:

I am not going to answer that question, as I am not currently a Trustee and do not have detailed insight into his evaluation.

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

Answer:

TASB is an organization that provides information and professional development. It is beneficial to have access to such a large network of colleagues in this complex work.

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.