



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
Dr. Natalie Blasingame	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD- Trustee Position 6

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: Every child deserves an excellent education, in a safe environment, preparing them for work, college, the military, and a family of their own one day. Every teacher deserves policies that “have their back” as they hold students to high expectations to help them reach their full potential. All of this must be built on a firm foundation of Judeo-Christian values that undergird the system. I am called to tear down the overinterpretation of “separation of church and state” in schools to make way for values-based education offered in the context of our great American heritage.

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 uniquely qualified to facilitate the work to create academic and moral excellence in our school district. I have successful experience as an educator and trustee building academic programs that create exceptional growth and outcomes for students. Our district has significant latitude in shaping the educational programs of our schools. With 60% of our families facing economic challenges, CFISD must work harder to achieve an "A" rating. I offer 31 years of experience fostering strong educational outcomes in Title-I schools as an educator, plus four years as a trustee proposing and passing conservative policies such as:

- parent's rights policy
- library and curriculum cleanup and transparency
- restricted bathroom use by gender
- adopted a District of Innovation plan, adjusted instructional calendar.
- voted for Chaplains in schools
- created board subcommittees for board involvement with administration
- addressed budget shortfalls, voted against raising taxes

These experiences as an educator and trustee help me to ask the right critical questions about data, goalsetting, strategies, and budgets.

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: We face a \$50M budget shortfall, and like our budgets at home we must pull in our bootstraps and reduce spending. One critical point of our slate's campaign is fiscal accountability and transparency. We must complete a forensic audit of our finances and also do an analysis at the function level to truly understand where each dollar is going within spending categories. We must analyze all financial activities against outcomes and trim to the most critical activities that we can engage in within our budget. We shall not increase taxes or pass a bloated bond in order to conduct school business.

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: CFISD, even while touted as the largest “A” rated school district in the state, still had 13,000 students in 3rd-10th grades (Eng I/II) who were not performing at the “approaches” grade level designation on STAAR ELAR. In order to address this reading crisis, our board has set new strategic plan goals to address literacy in the early grades- something that took 3 years but I am very proud of. We now track and get frequent reports about students in 1st - 5th grades who don’t read on level. We are monitoring their growth and adjusting resources to make sure that each child has the basic right of literacy. This is critical work to improve our system. Our slate is the right team to take CFISD to the next level of academic excellence that families can trust to send their children to.

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: The teacher appraisal system is standard and holds teachers to a fair level of expectation and professionalism. However, the state’s Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) is a merit-based bonus pay system that pays teachers additional money for having exceptional outcomes judged against the level of need of the students on the campus per census block. I believe this meritocracy is promising to recognize the performance of strong teachers showing measurable progress with their students along with effective practices in their classroom. This allows for greater earnings on top of the adequate (but not high) base teacher salaries for those who show differential performance. I agree fully with this.

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

Answer: I am in full support of SB10 and celebrate its passing. I am very disappointed that the district I represent has an injunction against it that does not allow us to post the 10 Commandment posters yet. I am praying the case will be accelerated – as I am confident it will pass since the posters are patterned after the statue on the Texas Capital grounds that already won its challenge before the supreme court. I am grateful to the donors who have already made provision and have our posters ready for the day it passes. We must return the teaching of Judeo-Christian principles in our schools. We must base our discipline system on Biblical principles so that we teach and model responsible citizenship and Christ-like community for our students.

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):

<u> 2 </u> Mathematics	<u> 4 </u> Grammar/Vocabulary/Spelling
<u> 13 </u> Information Technology	<u> 3 </u> Language Arts
<u> 5 </u> Sciences	<u> 1 </u> Reading & Comprehension
<u> 10 </u> Vocational Learning	
<u> 6 </u> US & Texas History	<u> ?? </u> Sex Education (Basic birds and bees with parent opt-in)
<u> 9 </u> Art & Music	<u> 11 </u> Personal Finances
<u> 8 </u> Physical Fitness	<u> </u> Political Activism
<u> 7 </u> Social Studies/Geography	<u> </u> Critical Race Theory
<u> 12 </u> Foreign Language	<u> </u> Gender Identity
<u> </u> Social Emotional Learning	

Answer:

8.

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

Answer: Our superintendent salary was reduced significantly when we hired a new Superintendent two years ago. His appraisal showed mostly positive results, but does not add up to a rubric score. We will work on improving our appraisal tool to quantify his performance against his salary.

9.

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

Answer: I don't support joining TASB or utilizing their services where it can be avoided. TASB trains and indoctrinates boards into submission, waters down conservative laws that come out of our state legislature, and engages in taxpayer funded lobbying.

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.