



Plano ISD Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire

Place 1: Carissa Picard

What are the top three reasons you want to serve as a Plano ISD School Board Trustee?

First, I have a vested interest in school policies as my son is currently a student at Renner Middle School and will continue to be a PISD student for the next five years. Second, I would like to be the voice for working families, single parents, and kids with imperfect lives in district policy making. And lastly, I want to be of service to the community in a meaningful way.

What do you feel are the most important responsibilities of a trustee?

Continually improving an already great school system. Creating an academic environment that fosters self-confidence and promotes self-actualization by its students. We are charged with educating the children of this district, but education is more than test scores. PISD students are the future of America. Every child has something to contribute to our community now and our country later. As a result, the Board must always be mindful of growth and achievement by the students that is not measured by STAAR test results. Finally, the Board should proactively seek ways to inform and involve parents and families in the schools so that they can remain actively involved in their children's education.

What do you see as the top opportunities and challenges in Plano ISD?

Plano ISD's greatest opportunity is that it is an amazing school system that attracts the best and the brightest people moving into the DFW area. Our entire community benefits from the talent that Plano attracts, including our school district.

Plano ISD's greatest challenge lies in meeting the needs of its diverse student body. Every student in PISD deserves to be educated in a supportive, adaptive academic environment.

Why are you qualified to hold the position of trustee?

I am an attorney who has been practicing for seven years. My legal training will be an asset to the Board as it is regularly required to interpret and apply state and federal law and frequently reviews and negotiates a variety of contracts on behalf of the school district. I am also a PISD parent. I know where the system excels and where it can be improved.

What is the most important thing you want to accomplish if elected?

I would like to strengthen the District's anti-bullying policies. I want to ensure that our District makes it clear, from policy to execution, that PISD is committed to protecting and promoting the personal dignity of every single child. My secondary goal is finding ways to engage our families more, both in the schools and in Board decision-making.