



Plano ISD Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire

Place 3: Nancy Humphrey

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

- 1) Plano ISD community, the greater Dallas area, and throughout the state of Texas. Within the district, I connect parents and stakeholders to resources, within or outside the district to assist their needs. I have developed contacts at UT Dallas and Collin College, and can connect parents to direct resources to get specific questions answered. Regarding statewide, other districts ask for my help—such as how to become a District of Innovation, understanding school finance, or for help organizing a search for a new superintendent.
- 2) To share my board expertise with the community. I know how the school district operates. I understand issues regarding public education, at the local, state and national level. I've attended seven years of continuing school board education. I contributed meaningful leadership to the board, serving as president for three years and vice president for three years. Under my leadership as President of the board, our board was named 2014 Outstanding Board in Region 10 and advanced as one of five Honor Boards in Texas. I serve on the following board subcommittees: Audit (chair-6 years), Legislative, Superintendent Search (chaired 2011 and 2014), and the Board Operating Procedures.
- 3) To advocate for PISD's legislative priorities and educate our community about school finance. I have a proficient knowledge about the complex system of school finance and the legislative process. I offered articulate solutions regarding school finance and transparency in taxation when I testified before the Texas Senate Subcommittee on Property Tax Reform & Relief in Oct. 2016. I work with legislators to further the priorities of the district and our community. I have presented sessions on Taxparency to approximately 600 members of our community since Sept. 2016.

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

- Understand the line between the role of board members (governance & oversight) and the role of the administration (management.) Trustees provide governance and oversight of school district management for the benefit of the stakeholders in the district.
- Understand the local district budget, department by department, as well as the overall state system of school finance. Make certain an annual audit is completed.
- Be prepared for meetings by reading all materials beforehand and asking questions until you have enough knowledge to be confident to take action at a board meeting.
- Be familiar with existing board policies that govern all aspects of the district and understand the board's role in policy making.
- Work together as a team with fellow board members.
- Have a long-range vision so that the district is always focused on the future, and view everything through a lens of what is best for the students, parents & stakeholders of the district.
- Understand the process of strategic planning; make sure a current plan exists.
- Make certain that the superintendent is evaluated annually.
- Communicate with board members, cabinet, stakeholders and city and business leaders regularly.
- Listen to stakeholders and understand their concerns and requests, as well as educate them about the proper chain of command. A board member is the voice of the community and relays information to the administration.



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- Be familiar with the board's judicial role of hearing formal appeals brought forward by staff, students, parents, or community members.
- Know the Open Meetings Act and obey the ethics rules which govern the public office a trustee holds.
- Keep current about events in public education, such as what are challenges facing school districts? What are trends in workforce development and future jobs? Are there changes in demographics of the district, and why? What issues are being discussed in the legislative process?

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

Opportunities:

Opportunities to partner with higher education to develop programs such as an Advanced Industries Academy to provide the course sequences that high-demand jobs require for our students. Growth in local economic development brings many businesses who are ready to hire employees for high-skilled jobs.

Opportunities to partner with new businesses coming to the area to provide input for workforce development needs, as well as experts to volunteer or teach in the schools.

Challenges:

The changing demographics in Plano ISD bring challenges to reducing the achievement gap. Consider expanding full-day pre-K school for economically disadvantaged students, expanding the AVID program, and continuing the Commitment to Equity program that helps engage economically disadvantaged students to take higher rigor courses (such as AP and IB) take SAT and ACT exams.

A – F Accountability Rating System that was passed in 84th legislative session doesn't provide a true measure of a campus. The metrics should be revised to reduce the impact of low-income student performance and include more than STAAR results and attendance.

Vouchers (or any portability measures) Redistribution of tax dollars from public education reduces ability to fund fixed costs in place. Private schools and charters do not have the same accountability requirements, nor do they take all children; they are selective in admissions.

School finance reform, or the lack of school finance reform, continues to burden taxpayers with rising property taxes, but school districts retain minimal tax revenues from the growth. Funding has decreased by \$795 per student (adjusted for inflation) in the state since 2008. Plano ISD taxpayers have seen a 385% increase in net recapture payments.

Stabilized enrollment due to maturing communities and lower birth rates in the past few years. The demographer has predicted a stable or slightly declining enrollment for the next 10 years in Plano ISD.

Why are you qualified to hold the position of trustee?

I have seven years of experience as a Trustee on the Plano ISD Board and am a proven leader. I was elected President for three years and Vice President for three years by peers on the board. I served as



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chair of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee in both 2011 and 2014, to lead our board in the process of selecting a new Superintendent; one of, if not, the most important decisions a board makes.

I serve on the board Legislative Subcommittee to develop and advocate for the District's legislative priorities. I understand the Texas legislative process. Peers in Region 10 elected me to serve, three terms, on the TASB Legislative Advisory Council which adopts legislative priorities for school districts in Texas. I helped create TaxparencyTexas.org to educate our taxpayers.

I serve on board Audit Subcommittee and have 16 years of accounting experience, seven years in audit. In 2010, I found an error on the securities firm's bond refunding statement, leading to significant savings on the district's interest rate. I have an in-depth knowledge of school finance and advocate for our local taxpayers in Austin.

I have 15 years of service in leadership positions on various schools' PTA and booster club boards, as well as serve in the community as a Rotarian, Vice President of the Hendrick Scholarship Foundation and on the Executive Board of Circle Ten Council, Boy Scouts of America.

I advocated to change board operating procedures to accept public comment on non-agenda items, improving communication with our community.

I have hundreds of hours in combined annual training related to school board, including graduating from Leadership TASB in 2015 and Leadership Plano, Class 30.

I have developed many valuable relationships which are advantageous to the community and district.

I have the passion and energy to serve, and proven commitment.

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

To be part of a team that serves the best interests of students and the interests of our stakeholders, bearing in mind that Plano ISD must continue to maintain its excellence.

Specifically, I desire to provide governance to the process of developing choices in education by fulfilling a long-range strategy to implement future academies that will provide continuous improvement in student achievement, opportunities for high-skill learning, and target a reduction of the achievement gap.

Examples include the Advanced Industries Academy, as well as elementary academies, such as the IB Primary Years Programme at Huffman ES, and perhaps a fourth early childhood school. I have been involved in the board's 9 – 12 Academy Subcommittee to set guiding principles for the future academies in Plano ISD.

I believe my board experience, knowledge about the academy school design process, understanding demand for workforce and future jobs, and my community network all provide crucial resources to the success of the process.