



## Plano ISD Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire

*Place 3: Nathan Rylander*

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

My children are in second and fourth grades and have a long way to go in Plano ISD. Decisions that are made today will impact the children of Plano ISD beginning next academic year and for many years to come. As a believer in representative government, I want to ensure that wise decisions are made that reflect the will of the people in the community. Responsiveness to the needs of community stakeholders (parents, taxpayers, teachers, and students) is the most important service I can offer. My second issue is fiscal responsibility. Plano ISD currently has approximately \$800 Million in debt, which will balloon to \$1.1 Billion in debt over the next three years as the money from the 2016 bond is spent. Property taxes have already risen 28.3% over the last 3 years and the Plano ISD Board of Trustees has a responsibility to do what they can to reduce that burden.

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

“Operating within the legal parameters of the state and federal constitutions, statutes, courts, and administrative agencies, the Board is charged with the responsibility of providing the finest educational program possible for the students in the district. School trustees make all final decisions regarding school district priorities, [policies](#), personnel, textbooks, expenditures and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget which is necessary to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes to support the budget and submit bond issues to the citizens of the district to finance construction projects.” (Taken from the Plano ISD Website)

The most important responsibility of a trustee is not listed on the Plano ISD website. A trustee needs to be open and available to receive input from the community in all areas affecting stakeholders prior to making decisions that will affect those stakeholders, and transparent regarding what decisions are made and why.

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

Plano ISD is working to close the education gap for ESL and under-privileged youth. Many studies have shown that elementary school children given more time in recess to play will perform better in the classroom, will not be as disruptive, and will develop better social skill through play. Increasing elementary school recess time to 60 minutes (from the current 30 minutes) will result in fewer disciplinary problems and more effective and efficient learning during the time children are in the classroom.

The ultimate goal is to educate kids in order to give them the ability to be productive members of society and good citizens. But disciplinary issues in a classroom prevent the rest of the students from getting the most out of their classroom instruction. Plano ISD needs to revamp its Discipline Management Plan. This would only enhance the effectiveness of the time our students have in the classroom, and it will only work in concert with sufficient time for recess.

### Why are you qualified to hold the position of trustee?

I seek only to serve others and make Plano ISD better than it already is. My identity will not be found in a position on the school board, but as a child of God, a United States Marine, a husband of Michele, and a father of Elizabeth and Allison. I have held numerous positions of leadership and responsibility, and a leader's real job is to serve. My 10 years in commercial real estate have given me a good education in finance and an understanding of land and construction costs, and also what constitutes a good deal and



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what does not. As a strong advocate for representative government, I recognize that my job is to represent the parents, taxpayers, teachers, and students and be responsive to their needs and desires.

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

The most important thing I can accomplish is to respond to input from all stakeholders. If an issue is legal, moral, or ethical, I will be guided by the law or by moral compass. In all other cases, decisions should reflect the will of the majority of stakeholders responding to an issue. I want people to know that I will be their Voice On The Board!