



Plano ISD Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire

Place 6: Trish Patterson

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

My reason for running is I want every child to know that he or she has that “something special.” The potential is there; we just have to make sure the opportunity is there. We can do this by:

- Continuing to make sure the Advanced Placement classes are representative of our diverse community.
- Encourage more parent involvement
- Targeted teacher retention and recruitment.

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

As elected officials, our school board members represent the voting public, both in the creation of district policy and in discussions with state legislators. They are charged with the responsibility of providing the finest educational program possible within the confines of legal and budgetary constraints. School trustees make all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures and growth management. As our representatives, we expect them to consider the immediate and long-term needs of our children and certified educators when making policy decisions.

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

The City of Plano has a comprehensive Equal Rights Ordinance that meets all Federal and State mandates. That said, I would like to work to ensure that PISD not only meets the standards set by the City, but exceeds them wherever there is an opportunity to extend the highest quality education to all our students. In addition, I believe PISD needs to take a serious look at student outcomes based on diversity factors, factors such as disciplinary measures taken as well as the more standard “success” measures. Who graduates and who doesn’t? Who gets into AP and who doesn’t? Who gets scholarships and who doesn’t, including value of those scholarships? I will work to maximize the positive educational impact of every dollar in revenue that the district receives, considering existing needs and future growth. Our district’s budget is an extension of the value our citizens place on public education, and as such, every decision should consider the effect on all students. I will work with our legislators in Austin regarding the state’s cost of education index (CEI), which is a key figure in how much funding we receive from the state. The CEI hasn’t been updated in over 25 years. Over that time, Plano ISD has experienced dramatic growth in our student population and the cost of living in cities served by our district. Updating the CEI will increase the amount of funding we receive, allowing us to provide better salaries and benefits, so we can attract and retain high quality educators.

Why are you qualified to hold the position of trustee?

As a mother, I have had the opportunity to see many different facets of Plano ISD. One of my children went through the school’s athletic program. Another is a senior in high school and has been in the special education program since 1st grade. My third child is excelling in the advanced academic placement program. I have experience as an educator both inside and outside the district, and have served in leadership positions in several community service organizations. These experiences have given me a well-rounded view of public education, which will allow me to bring a fresh perspective on matters decided by the school board.

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

Plano’s demographics in the past year or so has changed drastically especially in schools that are farther in West Plano. I think what is important is that we have to make sure that we continue to recruit qualified teachers and equip them to be able to handle and address the needs of the new demographics.



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We have to be intentional when recruiting and intentional in training to make sure that the staff is reflective of the new demographic. We can cost effectively do this by partnering with community organization to ensure proper training of new or current staff.