

A LETTER FROM KELLER ISD BOARD VICE PRESIDENT KEVIN STEVENSON

I hope that your first couple of weeks of school has gotten off to a great start. Your Board of Trustees is very committed to the ongoing success of the district through its oversight of the Administration in its quest to encourage students to be lifelong learners.



We as a Board have adopted four goals for this year to ensure that Keller ISD continues to be “intentionally exceptional”:

Board Goal #1 – The Board will adopt a philosophy that encourages innovative programs resulting in positive student outcomes.

We have exceptional teachers throughout the district who have creative solutions for reaching students and we as a Board want to encourage that creativity and innovative thought. We will develop a philosophy statement that will lead to increased support and recognition for out-of-the-box instruction.

Board Goal #2 – The Board will minimize its financial impact on the district budget.

The Board has a relatively small line item in the overall district budget; however, we have made the commitment to reduce our financial “footprint” as much as possible. This year, we have chosen not to attend any conferences conducted out-of-state. Trustees must obtain continuing education on an annual basis and these hours can be gained on the state level. While we won’t gain the broader insight and networking opportunities that national conferences offer, we will maintain an adequate knowledge level.

Another expense we are reviewing is runoff elections. Local Boards can pass resolutions to recognize the election winner in a race with more than two people as the person with the most votes instead of requiring a majority of votes for victory. For example, had a Board resolution regarding this issue been in place for the May election, the district would have saved approximately \$26,000 on a runoff election with an exceptionally poor voter turnout.

Board Goal #3 – The Board will develop and implement an internal process for human resource issues to be discussed during Executive Session.

As Trustees, we have only one district employee for whom we are responsible—the Superintendent. We do, however, receive feedback regarding possible personnel concerns regarding other district employees. In order to represent our constituency, we are developing and implementing a process to address these concerns to the Superintendent. This will allow the Superintendent to be notified about potentially unknown flashpoints and to also ensure that the Board is aware of these concerns.

Board Goal #4 – The Board will develop operating procedures, delineating trustee communications expectations to enhance interactions with all stakeholders.

Open, honest communication with parents, the community and district taxpayers is key to our district’s success. The Board is committed to increasing our visibility on district campuses in order to facilitate and encourage direct communication with stakeholders. One topic that we will be

discussing as often as possible with as many who will listen is the issue surrounding the State Funding Formula which determines how much state money that districts receive. Aspects of the Funding Formula are still based upon 2006 dollar levels with no consideration for inflation. It is imperative that you contact your State Legislators about issues or concerns that you may have and/or changes you'd like to see made.

In closing, I encourage you to contact any of the Trustees with questions and/or comments regarding the education of the more than 31,000 students served by Keller ISD. By building an open, goal-oriented foundation, the Board of Trustees -- in partnership with the Administration, parents and community members -- can make a significant difference in the success of our students and of the district as a whole.