

Micah Young for Keller ISD Place 1

1. What guidelines do you think should be adopted by Keller ISD with regard to bullying?

Bullying shouldn't be tolerated for any reason. We need to protect ALL kids from those who wish to do them harm.

2. As a school board member, how would you respond to the efforts of special interest groups who advocate the censor of existing curriculum perceived by them to be in conflict with their personal beliefs?

I am excited to work with district staff and parents to bring in great curriculums that are free from political influence. In a hyper politicized world there are many special interest groups trying to push an agenda that meet their personal beliefs. This must end and it is my goal to find curriculum that supports Reading, Writing, Math, History, and Science.

3. Statistics show child abuse is an increasing problem both nationally and locally. Do you believe that it is a legitimate function of public schools to inform students about their rights regarding physical and sexual abuse and the agencies to which they may turn to for help?

Yes, students should know how to get help if they are in a physically or sexually abusive situation. The first line of defense for protecting students should always be the parents and then teachers.

4. Keller Independent School District has had to cut many programs, reduce staff, and has been unable to make all needed upgrades and refurbish its facilities due to inadequate funding. As a school board member, what action, if any, would you take to adequately fund our schools?

In the State of Texas the method for funding schools penalizes some districts over others. I would work with state representatives to propose a new plan or some changes to the current plan so that funding is more equitable. Second, we need a detailed review of our current budget to see where efficiencies may exist. Finally, we should have a long term goal of reducing bond indebtedness and cutting taxes for our community.

5. Specifically, would you support accepting federal funding (grants)?

Yes, as long as there are NO strings attached. I will never accept a grant that requires the teaching of political ideologies or things that go against Keller ISD Values.

6. As parents, we will pull our children out of a class that has an incompetent teacher; however, as a school board, you are responsible for all children. How will you ensure that teachers are properly evaluated and held accountable?

Keller Teachers are great and amazing people who have a calling to work closely to educate the minds of tomorrow. With this in mind, our board should work with and through the Superintendent to ensure proper teacher evaluation programs are in place. We should also look at how we reward our best teachers for exceptional performance.

7. Schools are valuable community resources. There is a growing movement to have schools become neighborhood resource centers, open to the community earlier in the morning and later in the evening for a variety of uses. Are you aware of this concept and would you support it? What activities would you like to see available during these times?

We are an independent school district governed by local policy and state laws but I resist any attempt to promote ideological agendas on our campuses. I want our schools dedicated to the idea that we produce students that are well rounded in Academics, Athletics, and Fine Arts. I do not support the use of our schools for any other means.

8. How do you discuss topics where there is strong disagreement and remain civil? Said another way, how can the board work together with differing opinions?

Good strong debate should always remain civil but can also be passionate. I can appreciate someone who has a core conviction even when I don't agree with them. More laws and policy is not always the answer to fixing our disagreements. We must try to reason when we can and when we can't then we move forward with a majority opinion of the board.

9. If elected, once the Keller ISD School Board votes to approve an action or policy, what do you believe is your responsibility to that policy or action, especially if you did not support that policy or action?

We should follow policy as a board and work to change the things we do not agree with.

10. The STAAR test is a requirement. All students must pass this test in order to graduate from high school. To ensure our students' success, what resources would you commit to?

As a board we should be working with state leaders to find a better way of measuring district performance. The STAAR test doesn't serve students well. I would commit resources to finding an alternative to STAAR testing.

11. What is the appropriate relationship between the Keller ISD Governing Board and Site-Based Decision-Making Committees?

These committees should work on behalf of the board to bring information and light to an area of concern so that board members can understand all side of an issue when making a decision.

12. How important are fine arts and extracurricular activities such as athletics to overall education? How should they be funded?

Very Important! I played sports all the way through high school and into college and the benefits I received from that experience are immeasurable. Playing sports helped me achieve my college education and set me up well as a combat veteran to handle the stress of the job. I am a big believer in well rounded students doing their best to achieve in all aspects of their school experience.

13. What is your view of home school, private school, and charter school students participating in extracurricular activities in the public schools?

Tax paying citizens should have the right to try-out for extracurricular activities.

14. How do you see Keller ISD responding to the competition of charter schools and private schools?

Our goal should be to make Keller the top choice of parents, teachers, and students. This is what I do everyday in my small business and that will be my goal with our district.

15. How do you feel about the current teacher/student ratio and what options does Keller ISD have to change it if you feel that is necessary?

Our ratios go from 18 to 1 at the lower ages up to 24 to 1 in some classrooms at the high school level. While numbers are great to look at, the outcomes are more what I am concerned with. As a district we are behind in a few of areas post Covid including our reading scores. Reducing student to teacher ratios maybe a beneficial technique to improving outcomes but we also need to look at the curriculums, schedules and other factors including class sizes as a means to return to academic excellence.

16. Do you have any specific changes you want to see made in our schools' curriculum?

Yes!

17. What is your view of school board/administration's relationships as they relate to management of school district operations?

Our district administration should have a goal of being efficient and directly involved with our campuses. Currently, there are 4 different districts under the name of Keller ISD. Each high school feeder pattern has its own challenges and issues but none of them seems to have any correlation. We have seen letters from Principals to the Superintendent asking why parts of the administration that have direct connection to school operations have never been seen or taken the time to communicate directly with the school. We need efficiency not bureaucracy.

18. What is your position regarding self-esteem and self-worth educational programs?

Self-worth is derived from purpose. Too many programs attempt to repair the symptoms associated with facing today's challenges. I once asked my friend and pastor who has 7 kids, "What is the secret to raising emotionally strong kids"? His answer was enlightening, "Hard Work!" Our self-esteem and self-worth programs should be focused on creating well-rounded students and helping them achieve in the face of hard work.

19. How can the governing board of Keller ISD improve its image in the community?

Transparency and Leadership.

20. In the face of declining resources, what projects do you foresee for future bond elections and projects?

Keller ISD taxes continue to increase as the value of homes have risen. Our potential revenue

continues to climb but the district is currently over \$1B in debt. The idea of another bond issue is hard to imagine right now. We need to retire the current debt and consider pay raises for teachers before any new bond issues are introduced.