



**Candidate Questions for
Keller Independent School District Board of
Trustees**

Presented by Keller ISD Council of PTAs

Please submit your answers as a pdf to president@kellercpta.org by 04/24/2022

Answers will be publicized on KISD and KCPTA social media

1. What guidelines do you think should be adopted by Keller ISD with regard to bullying?
Keller ISD already has a robust anti-bullying called R.O.C.K (Reaching Out with Character and Kindness). I don't believe we need additional guidelines
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 do not condone censorship of books. However; I do feel it is important for the district to have a process to review books that members of our school community (whether this be a teacher, parent, or even a student) bring to our attention as potentially inappropriate for a specific age group. This is what the book review process currently in place is for.
I also support parent's rights to have input on what their children access for extra-curricular reading thru our libraries. Again, we currently have a process in place where parents can restrict access to specific books for their individual students as they see fit.
None of the books that have been mentioned by specific interest groups have ever been part of our curriculum, and with the above processes in place, I believe no further actions are required.**
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?
**I believe the district has a responsibility for the safety of all students and staff.
There are also very specific legal regulations that must be followed if anyone in the district becomes aware of potential abuse or has reasonable suspicion of abuse.**
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?
**School funding is a complicated process, and unfortunately, we can't just use all funds for whatever we may choose/need. To try to keep this simple – funding for schools is received into specific “buckets” and the state mandates what we can use each bucket for... so unlike our personal finances, we can't just shift from one bucket to another if we want.
The best thing that anyone (school board, school staff, parents, community members) can do to fight for our schools is to be informed when the state legislature is in session and to contact their politicians to let them know this is**

important to them. Because that is who controls our funding, that is who we need to lift our voices to in order to hopefully make an impact.

5. Specifically, would you support accepting federal funding (grants)?
On the surface, I think everyone's answer would be "of course!", after all – why would we turn down money? But... I can't make that blanket statement because usually any type of grant has strings attached. Much like general funding received for schools, grants usually have very specific uses, restrictions, and requirements. So what I would say is, if the grant and its requirements are an overall benefit for the district then yes, I would support that.
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?
Here again, there is a process that we are required to follow by the state for evaluations, in addition to processes developed by the district. Our intent is to have great teachers in every class. However; I will add that as personal experience from a parent in the district – we've had situations where a specific teacher was not a good fit for our kids. To us, the teacher seemed ineffective, but we personally know other students who had the same teacher who had a completely different experience.
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?
Our buildings have been community resources for a long time. I do not have specific activities in mind for any additional use. I do believe that careful planning needs to occur to ensure that extra activities do not interfere with the needs of students and staff.
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?
Quite simply, we need to model what we preach. We expect our students and staff to show respect and communicate civilly. The board has had a number of "difficult" discussions and we very often have differing opinions. This is not a bad thing and actually ensures that concepts are more fully explored. Most often these occur in the pre-work of the board before our main board meetings. We have workshops and special meetings to allow us to do this work, have the discussions, and then move forward. We are also human, occasionally emotions do flair or someone may be having a "bad" day – this is also important to remember and not take things personal so that we can move on as a team.
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?
Regardless of personal opinion, once an action or policy is adopted then it is the responsibility of the entire district to support that. It is very likely there will always be someone who does not 100% agree (whether this is a board member or staff), but that is why governance of schools was set up to be by majority and not individuals.

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?

The purpose of the STAAR test is to measure the knowledge that is part of our curriculum and required teaching. While this means that nothing specific should be required as "additional". I am, and the district, is committed to ensuring each student reaches their potential and providing support for those who may need additional resources. The type of resources will vary greatly and therefore I do not have a specific list.

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

I am not certain what exactly you are referring to as a site-based decision-making committee, so I am unclear as to how to answer this. However; the board's responsibility as a whole is governance of the district, budget and advocacy – the board's role is not to get too far into "the weeds" of day-to-day school administration, that is the superintendent's job.

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

These are critical. For many students these activities and opportunities is what keeps them engaged in school, or may even provide them with additional education or employment opportunities.

What specifically are you asking in regards to funding? While regulations allow for things like booster clubs – everything the district does is part of our more comprehensive funding.

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

While I understand the need for students that may attend these non-public schools for these activities, I do not believe it is the responsibility of public schools to provide these services. Parents make a choice to participate or not participate in their public school district and must weigh the needs of their students versus the offerings of each setting.

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

Our focus is not competition. Our focus is to provide the best possible opportunities and education to our students who are enrolled in the district. We can only affect those students directly and therefore that is our focus.

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?

I believe the current ratios are adequate

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

I do not and I don't believe this is the role of a board member.

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

As I stated previously, the board's role is district governance and in order to effectively do that – we must have effective working relationships with administration.

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

I believe it is important to help all students develop positive self-esteem/self-worth. This can come in a variety of ways, and some students may benefit from a more general class wide type of education while some will benefit because an individual staff member takes an interest in them and encourages them personally. This is one of the greatest skills of a good teacher – being able to read their students and meet them where they need to.

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

I think this is a “loaded” question... there will always be someone who doesn't like specific things... whether that be how something was voted on, their opinions of a specific board member, or any list of things. I also know that very often those who are most vocal are in the minority. I think it's important for the board to communicate as well as we can and always make decisions in the best interest of the district as a whole.

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

Future bond elections will most likely include infrastructure needs.

