

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

Keller ISD currently has an anti bullying and anti harassment policy in place (for students and teachers). We need to enforce the current student code of conduct and have a consistent discipline matrix across all campuses. Bullying and harassment is never permissible and we should have zero tolerance.

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?

There is a special interest group in KISD - parents! When it comes to our children, we are passionate about education policy, as we should be. I intend to operate with honesty and integrity and to put the interest of those I serve above my own.

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?

Teachers and all school employees are considered professional reporters (not investigators) and required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Section 261.101 of the Texas Penal Code requires *anyone* with knowledge of suspected abuse or neglect to report it to the proper authorities. As a mother of 6 children and a youth leader to high school girls, there does need to be some type of carefully selected program to inform students how to recognize and report physical and sexual abuse. We as a community need to protect and stand up for the next generation.

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 Board Trustees should have detailed and thoughtful discussions about the budget to make sure every dollar is being spent in a responsible manner.

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

As a district, we should always be pursuing academic excellence and looking out for the best interests of our students. A thorough knowledge of requirements and expectations tied to the funds would need to be examined before accepting funds.

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?

This begins with setting high expectations of excellence, starting with the Board of Trustees. We need to create and implement policies that ensure our district can recruit, recognize and retain excellent teachers, support staff and paraprofessionals. Please see a post on my facebook site that includes more detailed information concerning the pillars of staff support and retention.

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?

There are many great resources our schools provide for our students. If the School Board is going to have discussions regarding activities before and after school, the end goal should be to increase student achievement. An example of this would be an activity that promotes literacy and all programs should be accessible to all feeder patterns.

I think there are also opportunities for outside organizations that provide excellent services to utilize our facilities. This is a fantastic way to provide that opportunity to our families and increase revenue that can be funneled back into our schools.

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?

Behind every great team is a strong healthy culture; great leadership; and passionate, committed people. As a School Board Trustee, we must put aside our egos and work diligently toward the goal. We must be humble and willing to work together, to advocate for the best interests of students, parents and teachers.

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?

If I personally do not support a policy, I will make my position known through calm, educated, and mature discussions with the other school board trustees. If the policy/action is approved, I will stand behind my decision, even if it's not popular, while supporting the outcome to the best of my ability.

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 state spends 90 million for 1 test, one day and the school's accountability rating is tied to the results. I believe in school accountability and there needs to be a way to measure student growth. However, I'm open to discussing alternate testing options that make the test more meaningful for teachers, such as getting results in real time. The real question should be, "what resources would Texas PTA and TEA commit to in order to ensure students' success?"

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

The School Board creates, implements and governs through policy. The superintendent executes and guides the district through said policy. Committees can be a great way for brainstorming additional ideas and is also a way for people's voices to be heard.

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

All of my children have participated in fine arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities offered by KISD; and it has been great! I would like to develop and support initiatives that increase student participation in extracurricular activities like art, choir, athletics and service clubs. Research suggests that participation in extracurricular activities increases student engagement, academic achievement and connection to their school (i.e.; lower drop out rates). Funding sources include but not limited to - continued support from the district, Booster Clubs, fundraisers, and ticket sales. School Board Trustees should have detailed and thoughtful discussions about the budget to make sure every dollar is being spent well.

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

Please reference my answer to question 12 regarding the importance of extracurricular activities. The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 547 which allows students to compete without enrollment requirements, so my personal opinion is irrelevant on this matter. I am for all students and want all to succeed.

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

I support a parent's choice in how they choose to educate their child. We should continually strive to keep KISD excellent and a destination for families to live.

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?

My 6 children have not had any issues with the teacher/student ratio. However, after substituting in Special Education and STAAC classes all semester, I have seen first hand how hard the teachers and paraprofessionals are caring for the most vulnerable of our student population. Many areas are understaffed. We need to ask teachers and support staff what they need and listen to what they have to say.

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

According to Christopher Lucas, the Director, Policy, Planning, and Operations Governance & Accountability at TEA, "School districts have significant local control over the selection of instructional resources, and the development of the policy for such a selection is a cooperative effort between the administration and the board." The focus needs to be on educating our students and increasing the literacy rate. This could mean, evaluating our current curriculum in the lower grades which have unfavorable feedback from teacher surveys (i.e., Lucy Calkins, Units of Study), and also ensuring age appropriate material is available to students. Graphic, sexually explicit materials have no educational value in our schools and I will fight to protect the impressionable, young minds of our children.

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

The School Board and administration should work together in a positive and professional partnership, keeping the best interests of students, parents and teachers at the forefront. The board sets policy that the school administration executes. Setting the policy should be a collaborative effort but the board has ultimate authority to create policy.

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

The emotional well being of students is very important. Any programs or curriculum being used to address these issues should be examined very thoroughly to ensure they are age appropriate, with the ultimate responsibility being left to parents.

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

Listen, engage and communicate with the community! Operate with transparency and honesty and make yourself available to the community. We all make mistakes, so when that occurs, own it. Be authentic in a world of fake.

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

The School Board needs to make informed and intentional decisions when it comes to the budget to make sure every dollar is well spent. One would have to ask if it's prudent to support future bond projects when KISD is currently operating from a \$8 million plus deficit.