

Brenham ISD Board Candidates Questionnaire – 2021

Brenham/Washington County, Texas

In each local election, the Washington County Chamber asks questions of candidates and publicizes their responses to assist voters. Please submit your responses to the questions below by email in either a Word or PDF file to shae@brenhamtexas.com by April 16, 2021. (We will be happy to email you this questionnaire form, upon request.) All candidate responses will be publicized to the over 800 members of the Washington County Chamber and to all citizens of Brenham online at www.BrenhamTexas.com.

Note: please include the questions printed below above each response in your document.

1. Why have you decided to run for election at this time?

I am running for Brenham ISD Board of Trustees because I want to serve my community. I believe that my experience and leadership abilities will be a great asset to the Board. It is time for change on the School Board that will allow for transparency in all matters, maintain traditional values, and face-based curriculums to be taught in the schools, allowing for the highest academic achievement. Additionally, I want to be a fiscally conservative voice that strives for good stewardship of public funds.

2. What key competencies do you feel you possess to be a school board trustee? Briefly describe your financial analysis background, leadership, effective communication, understanding of educational system issues, ability to contribute to strategic planning and initiatives, and consensus-building.

My key competencies are that I have a proven track record of excelling in vision casting, communication, and leadership. I have nearly 30 years of finance and management experience, with degrees in accounting and business leadership and management. I have managed substantially large and extensive governmental budgets. I utilize active discussions to build consensus when collaborating with others, upholding objectives while maintaining confidentiality—implementing initiatives for strategic and budgetary planning, reporting and analyzing student outcomes, and preparing reports for site visits. I demonstrate analytical thinking and the ability to make critical decisions to problem solve.

My 20 years of higher education experience include my current role as President of the Belize Bible College, one credit shy of my Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration. I have over eight years of experience in course building and instruction, educational assessment, accreditation, credentialing. I am proficient in multiple learning management systems and am an instructor and trainer for various educational technologies.

3. What is your vision for education in this community?

As a taxpayer and mother of children that reside in this District, I want education to be a primary goal of the community. Education provides life-long opportunities for our students. I believe the District should add additional vocational opportunities outside of college for students, increasing opportunities for skilled labor and technical training cooperatives with local businesses.

As a representative of the people of Washington County, the School Board must work cooperatively with the community. The School Board is the protector of the tax rates for education in the District and must be fiscally responsible for spending and debt

management. While there is a need to update some of the facilities and technologies used in the schools, we must be accountable for the amount of long-term debt we lay at our student's feet.

4. How do you feel Brenham ISD impacts the local economy? How can the Brenham ISD board make a positive impact on local economic growth?

The current tax rate for Brenham ISD is among the lowest 20 % in the State and the second-lowest in the region. We must maintain these low tax rates to attract new businesses and homeowners into the area. The expansion of trade schools and technical training will offer unique opportunities for business expansions and meet economic needs with qualified, skilled workers trained in Brenham.

5. Describe your view of the roles of the school board and the Superintendent. What is the ideal relationship between these two?

The laws of the State of Texas describe the role of the School Board as having the duty to govern and oversee the management of the school district. Additionally, the Board sets the District's vision and goals and holds the Superintendent accountable for meeting those goals. The Board adopts tax rates, sets the annual budgets, and works to ensure that teachers and staff have the resources and training they need to succeed. Finally, the Board sets policies that will ensure that the students have every opportunity to exceed the State standards.

The Superintendent runs the day-to-day operations of the school. The Superintendent implements and enforces the Board's policies and procedures and is the executor of the District's vision and goals.

I believe that the roles and laws set by the State reflect a good check and balance working relationship between the two leadership roles. I look forward to a positive working relationship with the Superintendent and fellow Board members.

Are there any other comments you would like to make?

My dissertation's focus for my Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration is on a students' sense of belonging. This is a critical study because it demonstrates how students can lose motivation in their education if they do not feel part of an institution. While my research is on college-aged students, these studies began in primary education. It is imperative for students to feel included and valued as part of something larger than themselves in these difficult times. As a BISD School Board member, I will make it my goal to ensure that the policies are inclusive for all students and feel proud to be part of the Cub Nation.