

Brenham ISD Board Candidates Questionnaire - 2021

Brenham/Washington County, Texas

Submitted by: Tommie Sullivan

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

I decided to run for re-election to the Brenham ISD school board to continue in my commitment to advocate for a strong education system for the school children in the community and to help make a difference in the overall quality of education that the schools are providing.

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

Before retiring in 2009, I was an educator in the Brenham ISD for more than 35 years; a combined 14 of those years were spent in leadership and decision-making roles as assistant principal and principal at Brenham Elementary School.

- What is your vision for education in this community?

For years, I have been in favor of a "Work Hard; Be Nice" classroom concept. While I expect nothing short of 100% effort for every student to work hard for academic success, I also advocate for fairness interaction between students, between teachers and students, as well as between teachers, in order to maintain a level of respect, integrity, fairness, sensibility, impartiality, and plain ole concern for each other. In my opinion, achieving these feats lead to a positive environment and heightened self-esteem that is more conducive to learning and achieving.

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

It is documented that a majority of students will continue to reside in their resident state and sometimes they will remain living in the local area where they were educated. Research shows that economic growth is directly related to the skills of its workforce. The skills of the workforce are dependent upon the school system. The Brenham ISD board can make a positive impact upon economic growth by working with the Superintendent and staff to ensure schools are provided the tools for success, like limiting class size, hiring qualified teachers, continuing education for teachers, etc. These are basis preparedness of its teachers to develop students who will be entering the workforce...a boost to economic growth that is affected by worker quality.

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

The school board creates policy and governs through the policy it creates. The Superintendent interprets the policy and breaks it down through administrative rules and program specifics for implementation across all school campuses in the district.

