

**Brenham ISD Board Candidates Questionnaire – 2023  
Brenham/Washington County, Texas**

**Candidate Name: David Jantzi**

**Candidate for Brenham ISD Trustee Position #4**



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

**My main priority for the past 26 years has been to raise our children, since we have the opportunity to make a positive and eternal difference not only in their lives, but in the generations that follow them. Now that our last two children will be graduating from Brenham High School next month, I decided to run for school board trustee as an opportunity to raise the educational standards and make that same difference to all of the children in Brenham, by serving and giving back to the community that has poured into us for the past 16 years.**

2. 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.

**I believe that I have a very good blend of professional and personal experience that gives me a unique perspective and makes me a well-qualified candidate for Brenham ISD Trustee. After earning a Secondary Math Education degree with a minor in Computer Science in college, I taught various high school mathematics courses, ranging from Algebra I to Calculus, for 16 years. At Clear Brook High School in Friendswood (TX), I also coached volleyball for six years, girls track for four years, and softball for two years. While teaching at Pittsburg (TX) High School, I served as the campus technology co-coordinator for ten years. Some of my specific technology responsibilities included managing the campus technology inventory and budget, getting bids and purchasing technology equipment, installing technology hardware, setting up student and teacher logins, printing identification badges, and serving on both the short- and long-term district technology committees. During our ten years in Pittsburg, I also completed an online master's degree in Instructional Technology with Human Resource Management specialization from the University of Houston – Clear Lake, earning an A in each class.**

Since we moved to Brenham in 2007, I have worked as an office administrator for a local physician. As the administrator, I am in charge of interviewing, hiring, and training employees; communicating the mission and vision to our employees; managing the billing and credentialing; and making sure that our website and all other forms of graphic design and communication are done in a professional manner. Because of my job, attention to detail is of the utmost importance. Personally, my wife and I are members at Champion Fellowship church, where I serve as a deacon and as a member of the worship / audio-visual team. Additionally, I have volunteered with several local organizations, including the Brenham Dolphins swim team (past board president), Boy Scout Troop 742, and Brenham Children's Chorus (BCC). Even though our children have aged out of those organizations, I still serve as the head referee for the swim team and event photographer for BCC. In addition to my photography and computer background, I have also written and/or edited articles for various newspapers since high school, and more recently, several speeches that I have been asked to prepare and present.

My family has also had a wide variety of experiences in the school system. My wife Collena has taught in several different public schools, including Brenham ISD, at various grade levels. She has worked as both an ELA teacher and a self-contained classroom teacher. We have had six children attend most of the campuses in Brenham ISD, with a wide variety of academic abilities. So I have seen and heard from all three points of view - business professional in the community, teacher, and parent. These experiences and perspectives have allowed me to acquire and develop the many competencies that are important skills for leading our schools.

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

**My vision for education in Brenham is threefold:**

1. I want every student to receive the best possible education in an environment that is conducive to learning, enabling them to excel in all areas by developing and growing into intelligent, hardworking, and respectful members of the community.
2. I want parents and community members to engage in a learning partnership with the schools that will encourage trust, respect, and transparent communication.

**3. I want every teacher / administrator / staff member to flourish in their profession by creating a positive and encouraging work environment that utilizes their time wisely and rewards them not only financially, but emotionally.**

**As a candidate for trustee, I have the following goals to accomplish that vision:**

**1. Student safety and learning**

- a. Keep our kids safe at school so they are not afraid to go to school**
- b. Create discipline policies that correct inappropriate behavior and allow students to not only learn, but excel; preparing them to be better future employees and citizens**
- c. Identify, implement, and maintain quality, proven curriculum (removing controversial items such as common core, CRT, SEL, etc)**

**2. Parent empowerment and community involvement**

- a. Create strong partnerships with parents and community members**
- b. Maintain rights and responsibilities of parents**
- c. Provide bi-directional lines of communication that are clear and transparent**

**3. Quality teacher identification and retention**

- a. Identify key concerns to teaching in BISD today and address them**
- b. Create effective discipline policies that allow teachers to actually teach their students instead of police them**

**4. Facility planning and management**

- a. Identify deficiencies in our schools and facilities**
- b. Create reasonable and financially prudent solutions**

**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?**

**In terms of number of employees, Brenham ISD is one of the top five employers in the community, so it always will have a major impact on the local economy due to the large number of people employed. Having a quality public educational system is also very important in drawing new families to the Brenham area, since that is becoming an increasingly important factor in the decision-making process for many families.**

**Additionally, we need to be graduating students that have a good work ethic and can utilize advanced critical thinking skills to become quality employees or entrepreneurs that make a positive impact on local economic growth.**

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

**The school board is elected by the community to set educational policy that follows the state guidelines while reflecting the values of the community in the public school system. They are the “faces” of the district, and need to communicate with the people in their district. Additionally, they need to both set and evaluate the district’s goals, priorities, and budgets / tax rates. They basically have one employee, the superintendent, and they are in charge of hiring him/her and evaluating his/her performance. Ideally, the school board and superintendent have the same vision and goals, and the superintendent determines how to best implement them through hiring choices and employee directives. Leadership always starts at the top and filters down, and so having a quality superintendent with great leadership qualities, as well as a vision and goals that match the school board, is very important.**

**While not perfect, a good sports analogy is the relationship between a football coaching staff and the quarterback. Like the school board, the coaches instruct the quarterback (and the rest of the team) the detailed information necessary to run a specific play that is designed to get as many yards as possible. Like the superintendent, the quarterback is the person leading on the field, telling his teammates what play has been called, and implementing the strategy necessary to make the play successful. One of the main characteristics that coaches look for in a quarterback is leadership, and how well they lead and inspire the other members of the team. The same holds true for the position of superintendent.**

6. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

**I have met many wonderful people and have learned a lot about our schools, community, and myself during this campaign process. One of our family mottos is “See a need, meet a need.” That is what I intend to do if elected to the Brenham ISD school board. I also subscribe to the principle of servant leadership, with the motto: “If serving is beneath you, leadership is beyond you.” I want to serve our community and make a positive difference in the schools that will impact our community both now and for future generations. My ultimate goal is to work together with the community to build a brighter future in Brenham - for ALL of us!**