



**VOTER GUIDE
McKINNEY ISD
SPRING, 2021**

**McKINNEY ISD
CANDIDATES
MAY 1, 2021**

Place 1

Maria McKinzie
Larry Jagours

Place 2

Philip Hassler
Anthony Congine

Place 3

Kathi Livezey
Erwin Garcia
Chad Green

Place 7 (At Large)

Joy Booth
Joseph Franze
Harvey Oaxaca
Serena Ashcroft

PLACE 1

MARIA MCKINZIE



Phone: -

Email:

mckinzie31@yahoo.com

Website: www.mckinneyisd.net/about-misd/board-of-trustees/place-1

Facebook: Maria McKinzie - Re-Elect to McKinney ISD Board Place 1

Background: I'm not an educator, banker etc. I'm a community member that was born and raised in McKinney with a voice that can make a difference and provide a different perspective to our MISD district.

Education: -

Occupation: Raytheon - Logistics I

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- McKinney ISD Board of Trustees, 2006-present
- First Hispanic trustee in MISD.
- Only minority and only bilingual speaker on the MISD Board of Trustees

Platform/Priorities

(Community Impact) My priority is our children and to be sure they have an equitable education experience. To always be available to listen to our parents, students, teachers and staff.

What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

(Community Impact) I am in support of the bond because this will continue to benefit everyone in the future. This will help ensure that the funding will be there for our classrooms and facilities which will benefit our kids, teachers and the community. It's really important that we continue updating and renovating our existing schools, which includes the older schools east of [US] 75. Anyone can currently walk in any of our schools and see updates from past bond elections and see all the improvements. This bond also covers for future growth in MISD by covering expansion or building a new schools. The best part is it will lower the tax rate by at least 3 cents.



MARIA MCKINZIE

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLACE 1

LARRY JAGOURS



Phone: 214.445.8440

Email: jagourselectioncampaign@gmail.com

Website: -

Facebook: -

Background: (Community Impact) The 13 years employment within special education in Lewisville ISD, and 10 years of employment within special education in McKinney ISD, in addition to subbing on various campuses after retire has given me a total view inside the framework of academia. After many months of weighing this process and it coming to my inner spirit, the decision (to run) was evident.

Education: Associates Degree, Theological Ministerial Studies, Phillips School of Theology
 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Management and Operations , Texas College -Tyler
 Master of Educations, Special Education and Teaching, Texas A&M – Commerce

Occupation: Pastor and Founder, Rising Dove Ministries
 Retired MISD employee

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

-

Platform/Priorities

(Community Impact) When elected, the issues paramount in the district is the ECD Pass Rating (Economically Disadvantaged Children) chart of schools in Collin County. 2019 information indicates our district ranks 13th out of 14 (Lovejoy is first and Anna is fourteenth). Keeping quality teachers and substitutes within McKinney ISD rather than taking experience and talent to other districts because of better salaries. The lack of proper diversity throughout the entire district.

What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

(Community Impact) My stance is mixed on several components of the anticipated bond for a few reasons. 1. Yes the district will need a campus in Trinity Falls in addition to maybe another middle school as the city expands; however, we should construct the proposed facility to be energy efficient, cost effective, and the prototype for education facilities in years to come. 2. From experience at various campuses, technology needs a drastic upgrade, as witnessed before and during pandemic. 3. Funds for heating, renovation, HVAC improvements are crucial on all campuses to provide adequate ventilation from airborne contaminants. 4. Fine Arts, STEM Labs are constantly in need of improvement 5. Purchasing of buses should be studied thoroughly (especially an entire fleet), maintenance, operation, staff for upkeep. 6. Athletics (closely studied to improve where the most need is).



LARRY JAGOURS

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Schools that have implemented anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity report fewer problems with school safety. Currently no major district in Collin County specifically references LGBTQ youth in their anti-bullying and/or anti-discrimination language. Do you support amending district anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies to be LGBTQ inclusive? Why or why not?

I'm in support of the anti-discrimination/bullying policies for the simple reason of the make-up of an individual should not effect the receive equal opportunity to education

What would you, as a School Board Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBTQ community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that District employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding issues facing LGBTQ youth?

Being one who has personally experienced discrimination my entire life, my education has come from living it. I would put experiences of the LGBTQ community with those similar to what I deal with daily as well. I feel strongly of diversity training on all levels should be given by employees everywhere.

Why should members of the LGBTQ community support your candidacy?

I'm favor equality for ALL individuals. Who has the right to judge anyone!

PLACE 2

PHILIP HASSLER



Phone: -
Email: philip@philiphassler.org
Website: www.philiphassler.org
Facebook: -

Background: In moving to Collin County, our family specifically chose the city of McKinney because of its incredible schools. My decision to run for McKinney ISD Board of Trustees is to serve as a voice for McKinney parents to ensure our children continue to receive an excellent education.

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Baylor University
Juris Doctor, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law

Occupation: Owner-operator of Chick-fil-A CityLine in Richardson

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- (Community Impact) Serving on the McKinney ISD Board of Trustees for this past year has given me a front row seat to: 1) Listening and understanding the needs of MISD students, parents and teachers; 2) Making decisions affecting our school district's finances; and 3) Working with community leaders and stakeholders to better our district. The combination of my finance and law degrees paired with my practical experience leading a small business has equipped me for evaluating MISD's budgetary expenditures, ensuring MISD's compliance with the ever-changing laws surrounding education, and evaluating the day-to-day processes and procedures needed to ensure consistency and excellence. Perhaps most importantly, being the father of two students receiving an education from MISD schools allows me to view all these decisions through the lens of a parent and its impact on our students.

Platform/Priorities

- Meeting the needs of our students and teachers in both a COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 world.

What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

(Community Impact) Approval of the McKinney ISD bond measures will provide funding for classrooms and facilities while lowering our tax rate by at least 3 cents, putting on average an annual \$112.27 back into the pockets of McKinney property taxpayers. I fully support these bond measures based on McKinney ISD's track record of putting the needs of our students and teachers first while being a good steward of our tax dollars.



PHILLIP HASSLER

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLACE 2

ANTHONY CONGINE



Phone: -

Email: tconginge68@gmail.com

Website: -

Facebook: -

Background: (Community Impact) I came about deciding to run for MISD when my neighbors and I were talking about how we have been held out of anything from the school, and we really didn't have much of any voice in the system, and all of us have kids in the system.

Education: -

Occupation: Assistant Service Manager at Park Place Lexus

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- (Community Impact) My experience in many different fields helped me in many ways. When I was a radio broadcaster, it taught me how to prepare and respond to questions on the fly as well as how to control conversations. When I drove for a living, it taught me to press through the tough times and how to dedicate myself to something regardless of the outcome. Working in the car business, I learned being a part of a team and developing something that helps you grow as a person as well as business. Trading stocks and options helped me learn about risk and rewards and probably more importantly when the risk doesn't work out how to recover regroup and repair yourself. The most important thing is with the many lanes of my life, it taught me when things didn't all work out to get up and keep going. -

Platform/Priorities

- Our challengers include improving our school rating and scholarships opportunities to the best schools, but on top of that, we can't forget the kids that perhaps college isn't in their future. We need to teach them how to grow and develop. We need to improve our mentorship to help develop kids going to college, and we also have to develop better apprenticeship programs and reach out to local small businesses to help kids develop their own interest and careers. We also have to remind kids today the police are their friend and someone to respect and count on.

What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

(Community Impact) I am not aware of all the bonds issues at this time, but I do believe we need to be conservative with our money and resources, that in the good time you don't just rubber stamp everything. You have to watch everything that comes in and goes out.



ANTHONY CONGINE

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLACE 3

KATHI LIVEZEY



Phone: -

Email: misdplace3@mckinneyisd.net

Website: -

Facebook: Kathi Livezey for MISD Board of Trustees - Place 3

Background: (Community Impact) I am seeking re-election to McKinney ISD Board of Trustees Place 3 because I feel strongly that multiple members on the board should be educators with classroom experience. Education is in my heart and has been the focus of my life's work. I taught 30 years in MISD, 7 years at the elementary and 23 at the secondary level. My job of 11 years as a software trainer has afforded me the opportunity to observe the staffing, resources, facilities, and policies and procedures of many public districts and private schools across the country. If re-elected, I will continue to advocate for teachers and to work diligently with MISD to provide the best possible education for our students.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Southern Methodist University
 Master of Library and Information Science, Texas Woman's University

Occupation: Contract Software Trainer, Office Manager

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- (Community Impact) I am a McKinney native and have been a student, parent, employee and board member for MISD, giving me a unique insight on district policies and procedures, curriculum and my community. The qualities I feel that make me a good team member are I am a problem solver, a good listener, reliable and committed to seeing MISD students have access to an excellent education.

Platform/Priorities

(Community Impact)

Issue 1: Ability to stay ahead financially to maintain programs/offerings currently available, retain quality educators, and keep our campuses updated and safe. Action: Educate voters; continue community awareness of programs/offerings available to students in our district.

Issue 2: Help our students manage mental health issues. Action: Making sure our school staff is equipped to recognize and give support to students who need extra help in managing stress, depression or any other mental health concerns.

What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

(Community Impact) Vote "yes" for all four. This is one instance where "yes" votes mean less taxes. By voting for all measures, you can support your district and lower your tax rate at the same time. Bond money is essential for the district to improve, update and add additional facilities. The proposed bond projects are a joint effort between the district and a committee of community members who prioritized the district's needs for the next 5 years.



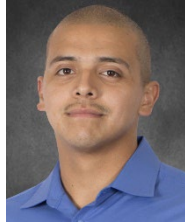
KATHI LIVEZEY

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLACE 3

ERWIN GARCIA



Phone: -
Email: erwing208@gmail.com
Website: -
Facebook: -

Background: (Community Impact) Being a member of the board of trustees is a privilege only few have been granted. I aspire to attain as much knowledge as past and present members of the board have. What better way to learn, continue building off of the greatness that has been built, and maintain those traditions that make McKinney so grand than actively being a member. It is our duty to faithfully serve. My attitude in every endeavor is optimistic. Whether easy or difficult, there is an opportunity for advancement in every obstacle. Whatever issue or obstacle may present itself, we will advance.

Education: -

Occupation: Sales with The Armstrong Company

(Community Impact) How has your experience prepared you for board service?

My experience has taken me to various regions of the world. I have had the opportunity to learn about different cultures and meet many people. The various positions I have held allow me to understand the weight that one carries to be a leader as well as responsibilities of being a servant. Communicating up and down the chain to ensure that transparency is ever clear and present is of utmost importance. Students come first, they are the future, we need to continue to lead by setting the example.

(Community Impact) What do you think are the biggest issues facing MISD today, and how do you plan to address them if elected?

An issue that comes to mind is enrollment numbers declining last year. It can be attributed to varying factors, from the coronavirus to increased values of single family homes and even to certain generations having fewer children. With MISD being proactive in all matters from schools being modernized and educators being properly compensated for their efforts in educating the young men and women of the future, the enrollment figures will change to meet the appropriate figures that best benefit the community and above all the students.

What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

EG: I am for the bond measures. In 2016, bond measures were approved by voters, and the McKinney school district has benefited greatly. MISD has set a high operating standard. To remain in the forefront and continue to lead by example are ways that we as a community can continue to do that. The students are the highest priority, and we can show them how much they matter by providing them the best opportunities to gain knowledge and advance in the pursuit of their dreams.



ERWIN GARCIA

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLACE 3

CHAD GREEN



Phone: (214) 208-3752

Email: green4misd@gmail.com

Website: www.green4mckinney.com

Facebook: Green4Mckinney

Background: (Community Impact) I have experience in helping students and districts excel. I could see that help was needed two years ago and began to pursue a position on the board. I also have a beautiful 11-year-old daughter who is incredibly smart. I want her to be able to have access to excellent certifications in technology that could be offered in our high schools and middle schools.

Education: Texas A&M Graduate

Occupation: CEO of Five Star Innovation LLC,

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- Currently sits on several district science, technology, engineering and mathematics advisory boards
- Partner in Five Star Innovation, which partners with the military and school districts for robotics and coding competitions.

Platform/Priorities

Priorities - My top priority is being a voice for the community through leadership. I have often been on the receiving end where leaders refuse to respond or even accept a meeting request. Personally, I can commit to being a responsive leader. Second, I want to help drive opportunity and partnerships for MISD by actively working with companies in our area to identify the skills and certifications they need their employees to have so our kids can have strong careers right after high school. Third, I want to pursue strong internship programs for our students during high school. Fourth, I want the development of these certification tracks to be explored by our kids, starting in elementary school.

McKinney ISD - The biggest strength of our district is our community of teachers and parents. Our teachers are our biggest asset and we should be implementing programs that build their value as professionals and keep them in our community. The amount of growth we are experiencing makes me wonder how we will have teachers living in our community. Our teachers are leaders and it is important for them to be an integral part of our community not just at school.

Charter Schools - The simple fact is that we live in a competitive world. Good charter schools do exist and they will pull away smart public school kids to their population. Home-schoolers will always be here and that isn't a bad thing to have parents intricately involved in their child's schooling. As a district, we have to recognize this competitive landscape and how it will impact our student demographics. We have to be responsive to our parents and we have to provide programs which set us apart from not only charter schools but other public school districts.



CHAD GREEN

Platform/Priorities - Continued

Dual Language Programs - I love strong dual and tri-language programs but they should be open to home English speakers as well as students who are just learning English. I have seen many of these programs do very well and some not do so well. Whether we are dealing with ESL or dual language the issue is proficiency in the academic language. This is very critical for our English learners who need to master the academic language in a very accelerated pace. This focus helps increase overall district performance and decrease drop out rates.

What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

CG: I am worried about the amount we are spending on AC systems all at once. I haven't been able to find anyone in the community that was on the bond committee, which suggests that this is being driven by the administration without the input of the community. We will be spending \$35 million on a new elementary school while we have already purchased the land and poured the pad. It seems to be at least \$15 million more expensive than it should be. I would like to see a breakdown and reasoning for the line items, including the STEM items. 1,000 kids have withdrawn from McKinney ISD. That's a large population decrease. Why are we rushing this bond issue?

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLACE 7

JOY BOOTH



Phone: -
Email: schoolboardjoy@gmail.com
Website: www.schoolboardjoy.com
Facebook: Joy Booth for McKinney ISD School Board

Background: (Community Impact) I have two young children in elementary school, and they are my vested interest in MISD. I believe that we need to sharpen what works in our district, be open about what needs improvement, and work together to draw a vision for all our children’s future. McKinney has good schools and a vibrant community, but our district should operate in a posture of continuous improvement to best serve our students. We need to be more transparent and accountable—sharing more about the programs we offer; who participates; who gets left out (and why); and what results come from our investments. I want to help develop an annual report to the community on these matters and work with all sectors of our city to craft a strategic plan with measurable goals, baselines, targets, and time frames.

Education: -

Occupation: Assistant Director in the Homeland Security and Justice Team with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)
 Co-owner, E.J. Wills Gastropub and McKinney Coffee Company

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- Helped raise more than \$30,000 for local organizations through spirit nights and fundraisers at their establishments
- 2020 graduate of Leadership McKinney
- Vice Chair of the Advisory Board for the McKinney Public Library System
- Curator of her coffee shop’s Little Free Library
- President of the Women’s Club at St. Gabriel Catholic Church
- Routinely cooks and delivers meals to the clergy at St. Gabriel
- Volunteers as a teacher’s aide for the parish’s Sunday school program

Platform/Priorities

Measuring Outcomes

- Joy’s work for the last 20 years has specialized in ensuring accountability in the federal programs that she and her project teams have audited and evaluated.
- Joy will work tirelessly to ensure that all major programs that McKinney ISD operates have performance measures, goals, and a valid and reliable way to measure outcomes and progress over time.
- Joy will also work to ensure that parents, teachers, and even students have opportunities to provide input on what should be measured and what reporting mechanism is most useful to them.
- She is committed to creating a meaningful strategic plan and developing a consolidated annual report on the state of our schools.



JOY BOOTH

Platform/Priorities - Continued

Enhancing Special Services

- McKinney ISD's programs and services are vast. But how many parents know what is available and how a student qualifies for participation?
- Joy will work to ensure that services ranging from special education to gifted and talented are well documented, easily understood and that parents have an opportunity to provide routine feedback on what is working and what can be improved.

Increasing parent engagement

- McKinney ISD is comprised of parents who have enormous hearts and a sincere commitment to the welfare of their children and schools.
- Not every parent is interested or able to be on the PTO or PTA however and not every parent can keep up with all the platforms teachers, schools, and the district use to communicate.
- Some do not have English as their primary language, some work shifts that do not permit easy communication during business hours, and some may not understand or have access to technology. Others may wish to be more involved but don't quite know where their talents can be best used.
- Joy believes it is the Board's duty to ensure that all parents have a voice.
- She is committed to working collaboratively with PTO and PTA leaders in the district to develop novel approaches for obtaining parent input and making sure parents feel valued and heard.

Improving Board Transparency and Visibility

- Do you know who your current Board members are? Do you know what the Board's role is in your child's education? Do you know how to speak at a meeting or when meetings are?
- Joy is committed to improving the Board's presence in our community and ensuring that all parents know who to contact, how contacting the Board can benefit them, and how and when to engage.
- She will lead by listening and learning about your needs and will be active, accessible, and an advocate for you.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Schools that have implemented anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity report fewer problems with school safety. Currently no major district in Collin County specifically references LGBTQ youth in their anti-bullying and/or anti-discrimination language. Do you support amending district anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies to be LGBTQ inclusive? Why or why not?

I do not support this change because the current policy in McKinney ISD is that ALL students and employees be free from bullying. Since the language already is inclusive of all, providing examples of specific types of bullying would only run the risk of emphasizing certain types over others, and could cause some groups to feel excluded, which is contrary to the goal. I believe the policy, by stating "all students," adequately covers each instance.



JOY BOOTH

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE - Continued

What would you, as a School Board Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBTQ community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that District employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding issues facing LGBTQ youth?

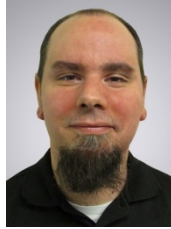
As a new School Board Member, I would make it a priority to understand the culture of each of McKinney's 30 schools and learn more about each affinity group that is active on campus. Doing this could include visiting the schools, learning about the clubs and associations, observing their activities, participating in service projects, and potentially attending their membership meetings. Because I am not yet a Board member, I am not familiar with the current diversity training content for employees, and therefore cannot comment on what it includes or excludes, how frequently it is delivered, and how it is evaluated. I commit to learning about that quickly after the election and would examine it closely.

Why should members of the LGBTQ community support your candidacy?

I am a leader who listens and learns, and I favor a more transparent and accountable system of Board governance. For example, I speak often about the need to develop a catalogue of all district programs—who they are serving, who might be left out, and what we know about the program's effectiveness. I have also spoken frequently about my desire to improve our district's strategic plan so we can establish baselines and reliable metrics to show where we are and where we want to go. Further, I have strongly emphasized community engagement so the Board can invest in measures to better understand the concerns, interests, needs, and experiences of our district's students, parents, teachers, and staff. I would be a representative voice that always seeks to measure, and where necessary improve upon, our programs and policies.

PLACE 7

JOSEPH (J.B.) FRANZE



Phone: -

Email: jb@jbfranze.com

Website: <https://jbfranze.com/mckinneyisd>

Facebook: -

Background: As a father of two children, I wanted to double down on my volunteer efforts within the community and have a say in the direction of their education. Having been involved with the local philanthropic community over the last few years, I want to continue being a positive role model, leader and advocate for all children in the area while raising more awareness about student safety and academic improvement among lower-performing schools within the district.

Education: Leadership Essentials Certificate from Cornell University

Occupation: Programmer Analyst with Denbury Inc., an independent oil and natural gas company

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- Sponsored a child in Kenya through the Hope Foundation of Kenya and in 2017, visited the country on a mission trip where he and his group taught in the schools, played with the children, attended church and helped the village build new mud huts that were destroyed after heavy rains.
- Served as a volunteer on a 2016 trip to Thailand where he helped teach English to elementary school students who lived within impoverished areas and could not afford to employ native-English speakers in the schools.
- Volunteer, North Texas Food Bank
- Member of Parents in Partnership (PiP) at Imagine International Academy of North Texas (IIANT)

Platform/Priorities

I believe the biggest issue facing McKinney ISD today is the disparity in performance between elementary schools. If elected, I plan to make sure all teachers have the proper resources and materials in order to run and maintain a functional learning environment that further sets our children up for success.

(Community Impact) What is your stance on the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot and why?

I support the McKinney ISD bond measures on the ballot as the technology and security improvements made possible with the bond should be a top priority for the district. The last bond election was in 2016. With such explosive growth in the area over the last several years and even more projected growth in years to follow, I believe passing the bond would be a wise decision.



JOSEPH (J.B.) FRANZE

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLACE 7

HARVEY OAXACA



Phone: -
Email: info@electharvey4misd.com
Website: www.electharvey4misd.com
Facebook: Harvey Oaxaca for McKinney ISD

Background: (Community Impact) My desire to run for the MISD board is fueled by a passion for education that has its roots in my 40-year educational career, 27 in MISD. I have seen firsthand the positive impact education has on our students. Students deserve an advocate. I will be that advocate. COVID-19 has presented our educational system with many challenges. We will continue to see fallout post-COVID. Passionate, experienced, visionary leaders will be required to guide us through the new normal. I am that leader.

Education: BS in Education, PE/Health Major, with a Spanish minor - McMurry University
 Master's in Education Administration - East Texas State University

Occupation: Retired Educator, Substitute Teacher

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- Team for the 2020 Census
- McMurry University Advisory Board School of Education
- Graduate Leadership McKinney 2013
- McKinney Council of LULAC
- McKinney Housing Authority Board
- McKinney Family YMCA
- McMurray School of Education Advisory Committee
- 3e McKinney
- Volunteer McKinney
- Boys and Girls Club of McKinney
- One Heart McKinney Grant Committee
- Collin County Habitat for Humanity
- Holy Family School Collin County Grand Jury 2008
- McKinney Citizen's Police Academy and McKinney Citizen's Fireman Academy
- MISD Bond Committee

Platform/Priorities

Educate - I pledge to foster an inclusive agenda, working together to educate, engage and empower students, educators, parents and citizens to provide the best public education possible to all students.

Engage - It's imperative that we work together to support the advancement of innovation in education, allowing bold new policies to further enhance student learning.



HARVEY OAXACA

Platform/Priorities, Continued

Empower - McKinney ISD must work with the community to find ways to effectively educate a more diverse student body. Every student can be empowered to reach his or her full potential.

Effectiveness - My leadership roles within McKinney ISD have provided valuable experience with budgeting and effectively operating within the budget to allocate resources to meet the goals of various programs.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Schools that have implemented anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity report fewer problems with school safety. Currently no major district in Collin County specifically references LGBTQ youth in their anti-bullying and/or anti-discrimination language. Do you support amending district anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies to be LGBTQ inclusive? Why or why not?

Although I am retired, I have been fortunate to come back to the McKinney ISD as a substitute. This School Year I have substituted every day as an Administrator. I mention this because as an Assistant Principal I handle the disciplinary issues for my alpha. When a bullying or discrimination incident comes to me, we follow established district policies regardless of who the students are. In the McKinney ISD anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies protect ALL students, in the MISD ALL Students mean ALL students. Because of this it is my opinion that the current policy as written and as I have experienced first-hand as an administrator protects ALL students, including LGBTQ students. However, if Federal and/or State officials mandate that our district include this specific inclusiveness we will follow Federal and State guidelines. Until then ALL of our students are protected under the current policies in place in the MISD

What would you, as a School Board Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBTQ community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that District employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding issues facing LGBTQ youth?

I am running on a platform of transparency in all areas. Making myself available to all constituents at all times. The McKinney ISD is very diverse and I do consider it a priority that ALL staff receive on-going training of ALL kinds of diversity, including issues facing LGBTQ youth. Being present and truly making an effort to listen to as many members of my community, listening is a huge part of communication and it would be my goal to listen carefully to any concern in our district. Being a minority myself, I know first-hand the importance of ensuring that ALL means ALL.

Why should members of the LGBTQ community support your candidacy?

I have dedicated over 40 years as a public-school educator and an Educational Administrator, I have seen many changes over those years, I do not have a perfect record but I have found that if I lead with my heart and filter all decisions by what is best for our students my decisions will stand the test of time. I am a 2nd generation Mexican American, the 9th of 14 children born to parents who did not speak English as their first language, I know what it feels like not to be valued or heard. I know what it feels like to be an outcast and ridiculed because I was different. But in the end, it was caring educators who listened and did not give up on me. The more things change the more they stay the same. Your support of my candidacy assures your students, ALL students, have a strong advocate who listens, who has the experience of working collaboratively with others to see diversity as a positive resource that our district is proud of not something that must be worked through. Your support ensures that you have my heart and all that comes with it.

PLACE 7

SERENA ASHCROFT



Phone: (205) 737-3621

Email: standwithserena@gmail.com

Website: www.standwithserena.com

Facebook: Stand With Serena

Background: I have a natural desire to serve and have been an advocate for our children and teachers for years. With three children in the district, I am concerned with the school environment and the current direction of education, especially fine arts. Virtual learning has not been successful for many students, and our wonderful teachers are just in survival mode. They have had to work extremely hard to teach both in-person and virtual students and have had tremendous burdens placed on them. The masks have impacted fine arts and the children's ability to sing and perform. We must return to a sense of normalcy for everyone to succeed. We need to make decisions that benefit the education and well-being of the children in our community and better support the teachers. I will help make McKinney a leader in education!-

Education: -

Occupation: Licensed Realtor, Substitute Teacher, Music & Piano Teacher, Director of the McKinney Children's Choir

Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- PTO President, Pantera Elementary in Diamond Bar, California from 2012-2013
- PTO President at Cockrill Middle School in McKinney, Texas from 2018-2020
- Talent Show Coordinator and board member of Minshew Elementary

Platform/Priorities

Our Children Deserve Better - Remove the unhealthy, "safety protocols," harming the educational and emotional well-being of our children including masks and social distancing. Our children deserve better than what they have had to experience this year. The school environment is much different than in years past. We know that children are not at risk for Covid-19 and they don't transmit the disease like adults. Their risk is 0% according to the CDC. They must be able to play freely at recess, communicate with their peers, smile and engage in a healthy way. Once the mandates are removed, we will need to work to undo the emotional and educational damage caused from the "covid crisis." With persistent effort, we will see education and student confidence soar.

Rebuild Trust - Rebuild the trust between students & teachers as well as parents and administrators. There is a tremendous amount of trust that has been lost this year. Many children know that the masks and social distancing are not stopping the spread of Covid-19 and they have lost faith and trust in adults who are telling them they need to keep doing these things. There is a big disconnect between the school board, administrators, and the parents. We must bridge that gap and engage with parents. Teachers are fearful of losing their job if they speak up about important issues. They must be able to approach the district, offer dialogue, and solutions.



SERENA ASHCROFT

Platform/Priorities – Continued

Best Education - Ensure the BEST education possible through strong academics and extracurricular activities. A tremendous amount of learning has been lost through virtual instruction. The majority of virtual learners are disengaged and 600 high school students were required to come back to campus in 2021 because of failing 2 or more classes. We must be accountable for our decisions at the local level and place the highest priority on the needs of the student so they can succeed. This includes strong academics through in-person instruction as well as enjoyable extracurricular activities such as fine arts, sports or engineering. Whether it's a trade school or college, we need to make sure each student is prepared for their career path.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.