



**VOTER GUIDE  
FRISCO ISD  
SPRING, 2021**

**FRISCO ISD  
CANDIDATES  
MAY 1, 2021**

**Place 6**

John Classe

**Place 7**

René Archambault  
Evelyn Brooks



**PLACE 6**

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**JOHN CLASSE**



**Phone:** (214) 336-5557

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**Facebook:** John Classe for Frisco

**Background:** It is an honor to represent the residents of one of the most sought-after school districts in the state of Texas. It is no secret we have been and continue to be a destination district for families relocating from around the world. Our growth is attributable to the superior educational opportunities Frisco ISD provides its students and to the desirable learning community that has developed through stable leadership.

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Minor in Computer Science - Vanderbilt University

**Occupation:** Certified Financial Planner

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- Frisco ISD Trustee (2014-present)
- Leadership Frisco Class XVI – a program of the Frisco Chamber of Commerce
- Leadership TASB Master Trustee – a distinction granted by the Texas Association of School Boards
- Frisco ISD representative to the Frisco Economic Development Corporation
- Served as an ex-officio John board member of the Frisco Education Foundation
- Board member of the Frisco Community Development Corporation
- Commissioner on the City of Frisco 2013 Charter Review Commission
- Delegate director for the City of Frisco to the Arts of Collin County board
- Member and chair of the Frisco Parks and Recreation Board

**Platform/Priorities**

Over the days ahead, in collaboration with my colleagues on the board of trustees, it is my desire that we continue to focus resources on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, we will move closer to the time when we can redouble our efforts in the core mission of pursuing academic excellence, expanded student opportunity, recruitment and retention of highly effective educators, and support of the whole child.

To accomplish these goals, we must continue working in partnership with lawmakers – urging them to prioritize our Texas independent school districts. Traditional public schools educate over 90% of school-age children in the United States, and Frisco ISD sets an example for others to follow. Lawmakers, especially those who represent Collin and Denton counties, should use districts like Frisco as an example of what works – rewarding their successes and allowing them to more freely adopt innovative practices.

As we move forward, I pledge to keep telling our story, sharing our successes and our struggles with the community, and fighting for our children and the families of Frisco ISD.



**JOHN CLASSE**

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### **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?**

Frisco ISD has strong anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies in place for the protection of our diverse student population which includes LGBTQ students. Current Frisco ISD policy prohibits gender-based harassment and defines "gender-based" to include gender identity and student expression of gender regardless of stereotypical norms.

([https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/309?filename=FFH\(LOCAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/309?filename=FFH(LOCAL).pdf))

Further, Frisco ISD is an equal opportunity educational provider and employer. In the Equal Opportunity Statement published by Frisco ISD it states that the district "does not discriminate on the basis of...sexual orientation or gender identity.

(<https://www.friscoisd.org/disclaimer>).

**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?**

Frisco ISD staff members receive diversity training annually which includes information regarding issues facing LGBTQ youth. The district has recently added a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategist to the administrative team (<https://www.friscoisd.org/departments/equity-diversity-inclusion/home>). This resource coupled with the continued utilization of our districtwide Diversity Task Force (<https://www.friscoisd.org/departments/district-committees/diversity-task-force/home>) allow Frisco ISD to analyze existing practices and target solutions to specific areas of need. The board of trustees participates in events and trainings that include the DEI strategist and Diversity Task Force. As Texas school board trustees, we are the only elected officials with required, annual training hours.

**Why should members of the LGBTQ community support your candidacy?**

It has been an honor to serve the residents of Frisco ISD for the past seven years, and I am humbled to be allowed to serve another term given an uncontested race. I am proud of the progress our team has made during my tenure, and I look forward to continue the good work we have done. For more information on district milestones reached over this time, please visit my website at [www.jcfisd.com](http://www.jcfisd.com).

**PLACE 7**

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**RENÉ ARCHAMBAULT**



**Phone:** 972-853-1442

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**Website:** www.renewforisd.com

**Facebook:** René Archambault, Frisco ISD Trustee

**Background:** It has been a true pleasure to serve the students, teachers, staff, and community for nearly 3 years; and I ask for your trust, support, and your vote to continue my service as we collaborate to stay focused on the future of Frisco ISD.

**Education:** Bachelor of Business Administration, Texas Christian University  
Master's Degree in Education, with a focus on Education Policy and Leadership from Southern Methodist University

**Occupation:** Deputy Director, Admissions and Marketing, for Southern Methodist University's Guildhall

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- Frisco ISD School Board (2018 – present)
- Member of the Wakeland Theatre Booster
- Ambassador Member of the Frisco ISD Council of PTA's
- Serves on the governing board of Frisco FastPacs
- Volunteer with the City of Frisco
- Volunteer with Frisco Family Services
- Member of Frisco Women's League
- Serves on the steering and advisory committees for Emmitt J. Conrad High School's Collegiate Academy (DISD)

**Platform/Priorities**

- Steady, measured, non-partisan leadership
- Focus on Covid-19 recovery (related to both academics and mental health support)
- Expansion in student opportunities and programming
- Keeping class sizes low while managing growth
- Teacher/staff support
- Bond oversight
- Increased resources for special education
- Maintaining the district's low tax rate and exceptional financial transparency and management ratings
- Completion of the community based accountability system/strategic plan
- Meaningful advocacy alongside our state legislators for the betterment of and funding for public education



**RENÉ ARCHAMBAULT**

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### **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?**

The richness of diversity in Frisco ISD is one of the most incredible things about our district. Our over 64,000 learners are protected by anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies to protect them and their experiences in and outside of our classroom. Our LGBTQ+ students are specifically referenced in the policy FFH (Local). Under gender-based harassment, the following examples are given, "Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; cyberharassment; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property." I support this policy and look to our newly hired diversity, equity, and inclusion strategist for any recommended amendments to this policy. In addition, we also ensure protection in our hiring practices under our equal opportunity statement which protects our potential and current employees based on "the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), military status, genetic information, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law." I also support this policy.

**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 Trustees, we spend hundreds of hours annually with our students, teachers, staff, and community. We are constantly seeking to educate ourselves in all areas so that we can best serve the needs of our diverse student and staff population. As a part of my work as a Trustee, I have worked with local governance authorities (TASB) to take training modules that address topics such as creating safe inclusive environments in our schools, working together for student success, sustaining equity, trauma-informed practices, and children in stress; all of which spent some good time discussing best practices for our LGBTQ+ students and their experience. In addition, the school board comes together with the superintendent to complete our annual team of 8 training. This training aims to create a culture of trust within the board of trustees, trust between the board and the superintendent and administration, and trust between the district and the community it serves. Last year, we sought to understand more about the experiences of our LGBTQ+ students, and asked our outside counsel to provide us with updated best practices. Training is paramount in our district, and I fully support training as a priority. Training helps all of us, including our teachers and staff; fully support our diverse learning community.

**Why should members of the LGBTQ community support your candidacy?**

In my first three years of service to FISD, I have prided myself on being an open, responsive, advocate for our community of students, teachers, staff, and community. I love this district, and I love public education. I believe that education is the great equalizer for ALL children, and it is our responsibility as Trustees to serve every learner who calls Frisco ISD home. I'm proud of the work that we've done as a board to model inclusiveness, equity, and accessibility for our community, and if elected to serve a second term; I look forward to continuing in that service. To find out more about me, please find me on Facebook @renewforisd or on my website at [www.renewforisd.com](http://www.renewforisd.com).

**PLACE 7**

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**EVELYN BROOKS**



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**Website:** [evelyn4friscoisd.com](http://evelyn4friscoisd.com)

**Facebook:** Evelyn 4 Frisco ISD Board of Trustees Place 7

**Background:** I'm running for Frisco ISD to support decisions that are in the best interest of our students. I want to give educators a voice and ensure they don't come out of their pockets for classroom supplies! Together, we can make FISD the BEST in the nation!

**Education:** Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Bowie State University

**Occupation:** Homeschooling her two children

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- Serves on the Waterford Falls HOA Board
- Serves on the Beauman's 2nd Chance 4 Change Board
- Advisor for Richardson YMCA Youth and Government Delegation.
- Serves in the Youth Ministry at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas
- Teaches Vacation Bible School and providing scholarships to youths in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Platform/Priorities**

Evelyn's decision to run for Frisco ISD Board of Trustees – Place 7, is based on her strong desire and commitment to serve her community and provide a unique and fresh approach to the current virtual and in-person learning challenges that COVID-19 has presented. She believes that ALL students can and must be challenged to think critically using differentiated instruction practices. She understands that COVID-19 has not only created learning challenges but has also ushered in new and varied mental health issues for our children. Evelyn sees a place where she can help develop plans to support children coming out of the pandemic crisis, with the support of families and guidance counselors to meet the holistic needs of every student. She hopes to create an environment of collaboration between parents, teachers, community members, seniors, Board members, and business owners to ensure continued excellence in Frisco ISD.

**My First Initiative** - To be a voice of reason when it comes to making decisions that affect our children physically, physiologically, emotionally, psychologically, and intellectually. Frisco ISD is not a substitute for parents and family values.

**The Next Initiative** – To develop and implement an action plan in response to the effects of covid-19 on learning loss, the rigorous continuity of instruction that aligns with the cope and sequence for both in-person and virtual learning, mental health implications, lack of visual engagement for virtual learners, and attention to learners with physical or learning disabilities.

**My Commitment** – In addition to these two initiatives, I'm committed to help support learning at home, where parents are active participants with teachers, with access to the same textbooks, novels, and e-books being taught in the classroom. Parents desire transparency about objectives being taught, along with consistent school-wide communication that encourages collaboration.



EVELYN BROOKS

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## GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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

While this candidate chose not to complete the GALA Candidate Questionnaire, they did choose to complete the questionnaire sent out by iVoterGuide.com. The iVoterGuide.com questionnaire includes questions in their Religious Liberty and Values sections that are relevant to LGBTQ students. This candidate's responses are provided below. The iVoterGuide.com question is in regular text while the candidate answer is in **bold**.

### Religious Liberty

School districts should not discriminate against individuals, organizations or small businesses because of their belief that marriage is only a union of one man and one woman. **No Answer**

### Education

If you support the teaching of Sex Ed, please answer the following question: Sexual education should include these topics (list all that apply and add your own, if needed) -- Physical and emotional health outcomes; contraceptive methods; consent; abstinence; sexual orientation and gender identity; human anatomy/the reproductive system; abortion methods and side effects; stages of pregnancy and fetal development; sex acts and pleasures of sex. **As of yet, the Texas Education Agency does not have a requirement to teach sex education, but does provide some guidelines for districts to use should they decide to teach sexual education. I support the Texas Education Agency's decision about sexual education. If elected as a board member, I will work together with members to ensure that TEA's guidelines are followed, and will base my decision about sex education on what is in the best interest of our children.**

### Values

No school official should be involved in the sexual transitioning of a student. All issues on this subject should be referred to the parents of the student. **Strongly Agree**

Judeo-Christian values established a framework of morality that is necessary for our system of limited government. **Agree**

Teachers should not use alternative names and pronouns without parental permission. **No Answer**

Therapy for children who have unwanted same-sex attraction should be banned. **Agree**

I support allowing students to use public restrooms, showers, and changing rooms, and to participate in athletic competition based on the gender with which they identify instead of biological sex. **Strongly Disagree**