



Candidate Questionnaire 2022

Le Keishia E. Dawkins

For Place 5

Q1. Have you ever worked in a school? If so, in what capacity and for how long? Yes, as a private school teacher for 2 years

Q2. Do you currently have children in school? Are they in public school or private school or charter school? For those with children who are no longer of school-age, which of the above did they attend? No longer school aged, she attended private, charter and public school

Q3. What experience qualifies you to hold this position? What is your vision for education in our district/community? My vision is to help support the district in maintaining a high standard academically, while be supporting the special education department and support staff. These are areas I find important being a former parent of the district as will as being a criminal justice professional.

Q4. Challengers only (non-incumbents): What prompted you to run? What would you specifically like to achieve that would be in your capacity? I choose to run in hopes to support and represent parents, students, and staff in terms of diversity to the underrepresented. (Special edu, and minorities)

Q5. Health insurance costs rose 6.2% in 2021-2022. MISD contributes \$250/month towards health insurance, but this ranks #37 out of 43 school districts in our area. Would you support compensating teachers more in the coming years either through bigger raises and/or through increasing monthly contributions to healthcare costs? Raises and added compensation is always a necessity, I would only support it if it is fiscally responsible on the behalf of the district.

Q6. Recent surveys among teachers in the US have shown that 55% of teachers are considering leaving the profession earlier than planned. It is 66% among Texas educators. What are your thoughts and priorities in recruiting teachers & staff? What do you feel is holding back our teacher retention rates, both new & veteran? What ideas do you have to improve them? I think outreach and recruiting should began in freshman and sophomore years of university students. I think teachers feel understand supported in the classroom In a number of areas.

Q7. Special Education teachers request additional staff to help with case loads district-wide. Many paraprofessionals have left the district for higher paying jobs outside of education. What would you do to support our students and staff in the Special Education department? I believe Special Education is the most under supported department in the district. I would advocate for more staff in those classrooms and pay incentives as well.

Q8. Do you think P.E. held twice per week is sufficient for elementary students? Would you support more recess time for this age group? I believe PE should be held daily.

Q9. Are you an advocate for fine arts for all students? If so, how are you/will be? Yes I am. In early elementary aged students, they should be exposed to many areas of the arts. In older elementary students, they should be allowed to participate in specific fine arts classes such as band, orchestra, dance, etc.

Q10. Books are banned for several reasons and often address the current climate. When books are recommended to the “Banned Book” list, do you think these challenges pose a threat to freedom of speech and choice? In a school setting, do you feel the library collection should reflect the diverse social, emotional interest, and needs of students? Reading breeds knowledge and power, however band books are not the decision of the local districts but one made on a state level.

Q11. How will you make unbiased decisions that protect and are reflective of all students, that may not align with your personal views, particularly with regard to our more vulnerable, small populations, such as our LGBTQ+ students and staff? I intend to made decisions that bring fairness and an even playing field to all students.

Q12. Being a minority majority district, what diversity and equity issues do you see within the school district? How will you work to address & improve these issues? I will recognize and carefully evaluate all issues of diversity presented to the board and make decisions that are in the best interest of all students in the district.

Q13. Poor mental health has become a nationwide problem among young people. Our district has addressed this issue by implementing programs such as the Hope Squad and SEL lessons. However, each campus only has one student support counselor that is shared among several campuses. How can we provide more (or improve) mental health services? What is the role of schools in providing support for students who are struggling with mental health? I would definitely advocate for multiple counselors on each campus and to

utilize as many community resources as possible. I would also advocate utilize the use of library staff to assist the counseling staff.

Q14. Describe your plan in supporting our schools via funding & safety?

Safety and funding is always a top priority to all students and staff. I would seek to evaluate the plans in place then aid in the decision making that has the most benefit for the district

Campaign links

Website: <https://lekeishia4schoolboard.com/>

Fb: [@Votelekeishia4schoolboard](#)

School Board Elections

May 7, 2022

email: VotingEducators@gmail.com

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