

# Candidate Questionnaire 2021

## Mansfield Organization of Voting Educators

*The following 16 questions were sent to each MISD School Board Candidate with a request for their response within two weeks.*

Q1. Have you ever worked in a school? If so, in what capacity and for how long?

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?

Q3. What experience do you have that qualifies you to hold this position?

Q4. Incumbents: What are your individual accomplishments as a school board member?

Q4. Challengers only (non-incumbents): What prompted you to run? What would you specifically like to achieve that would be in your capacity?

Q5. Are you more likely to listen to the community, district leaders or campus staff, when it comes to what is best for students? (whether it's curriculum related, COVID related, etc.)

Q6. How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

Q7. Health insurance was up 5.7% in 2018-2019 and another 3% in 2019-2020 but raises for teachers were 1% in 2018-2019 and 3% at the midpoint in 2019-2020 which caused many teachers to make less money than the previous year. MISD contributes \$250/month towards health insurance but this is #36 in school districts in North Texas out of 43. Would you support compensating teachers more in the coming years either through bigger raises and/or through increasing monthly contributions to healthcare costs?

Q8. What are your thoughts and priorities in focusing on attracting new teachers and retaining experienced/master teachers?

Q9. Numerous Special Education teachers in the district have told us that they are short staffed.. When they ask about additional staff to help with case loads, they are always told there is no money. What would you do to help our Special Education students and teachers in regards to this pressing problem?

Q10. Are you an advocate for fine arts for all students? If so, how are you/will be?

Q11. The state doesn't require technology as a requirement for high school graduation. Do you think that MISD should make technology a requirement for graduation?

Q12. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Optimal cognitive processing in a child necessitates a period of interruption after a period of concentrated instruction." Additionally they find that elementary age students "develop intellectual constructs and cognitive understanding through interactive, manipulative experiences. This type of exploratory experience is a feature of play in an UNSTRUCTURED social environment." For this reason many DFW schools have switched over to four 15-minute recesses per day at the elementary level. Teachers report better attentiveness, fewer behavior issues, and improved learning. Given this information, do you think P.E. twice a week sufficient for elementary students? Would you support more recess time for this age group?

Q13. What are your views on STAAR/EOC testing and other standardized testing?

Q14. How will you work to improve diversity and equity issues in MISD?

Q15. Why do you believe that, even before Covid-19, mental health has been declining rapidly in children and the broader U.S. population? What is the role of schools in responding to this?

Q16. With an increasing dependence on technology, how much should students use technology every day in the classroom from the elementary level through high school level? Does it concern you that students as young as Kindergarteners have been given iPads to use in the classroom and at home?