



SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

PAIGE RING

Candidate for EMS ISD, Place 2

Please provide any personal background information you would like to share with the employees of the district.

I am a proud, 17-year EMS ISD resident and parent! I have been married to my husband, Brant, for 24 years; and we are the proud parents of three children who are products of our EMS ISD educational system: Hayden (21), currently a junior at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, Abigail (18), currently a freshman at the University of Oklahoma, and Max (15), currently a freshman at Boswell High School. I graduated from TCU in 1993 with a BBA majoring in marketing and minoring in Spanish, and again in 1995 with an MBA. I am currently a stay-at-home mom; but prior to making the decision to stay home, I was a marketing executive with BNSF.

What qualifications do you have that would make you an effective trustee?

I am passionate about public education and have spent my adult life actively advancing causes related to children and their education. From roles defining church educational programs, establishing after school tutoring programs, volunteering in a myriad of capacities throughout the district, serving on the United Way of Tarrant County Kids' Way Impact Council, Chairing Camp Fire's Celebration of Champions Events, to teaching Junior Achievement classes, I am continually seeking opportunities to positively impact the education of our children. It is this passion for quality, competitive education that I will continue to bring with me as I serve as a trustee in EMS ISD.

I am a proven professional with 12 years of board experience in EMS ISD, where I currently serve as board vice president. I am proud of the fair, balanced, fact-based decision-making I have displayed as a board member. In this role, I have consistently remained focused on positioning our students for lifelong success, promoting quality teachers and educators, practicing financial stewardship for our taxpayers, and poising our district for continued growth. Additionally, I spent 12 years working at BNSF in a variety of roles of increasing responsibility, including cross-functional experience in finance, sales, marketing, and operations. Many of the experiences I had at BNSF have proven directly applicable to my role as a board member, including budgeting, planning, forecasting, contract negotiation, staff hiring, employee development, and retention.

Finally, I bring a unique perspective to my role as a board member, offering unbiased diversity of thought and experience to the EMS ISD Board. As someone who has been both a working and a stay-at-home mom, I bring with me the perspectives of many different constituency groups. I possess a unique combination of business acumen and hands-on volunteer experience and bring to the board a thoughtful, fair, and balanced approach to decision making. I feel my unique perspective complements the existing Board and ensures continued robust and professional dialogue and debate when tackling the difficult issues that come before EMS ISD.

How have you been involved in the district in recent years? (e.g., attended district meetings, served on committees, volunteered)

Throughout my tenure in the district, I have served in a variety of volunteer roles. I have loved serving as a school board member for the past 12 years! In addition to my role as a school board member, I have consistently served in many hands-on leadership and volunteer roles throughout the district. I have served our community in various officer roles for PTO and PTA organizations and am currently the treasurer for the EMS ISD Secondary PTO. Also, I volunteer with the EMS ISD Education Foundation in various capacities, and I'm not afraid to roll up my sleeves and get to work for the district - you can frequently find me working a concession stand at a football game, manning the silent auction table at a band fundraiser, reading to students at various elementary schools throughout the district, or teaching a Junior Achievement class. Additionally, I have served on numerous EMS ISD committees including the Aspire 2020 & Aspire 2025 strategic planning teams, the superintendent goal-setting sub-committee, and the board naming committee. Along with my volunteer work across EMS ISD, I am very involved in community organizations. For example, I have served in various leadership and support roles for my church, Dido United Methodist, over the past 20 years.

What three issues do you think are the most important issues facing the district? Please explain.

- Most immediate, is the impact that Covid and pandemic protocols have had on our district's ability to function. I see significant challenges as we move forward and return to "normal" operations. I am greatly concerned with additional stress and workload that has been put on our teachers and district employees as we have labored to follow all Covid guidelines and reach all students. Further, I am concerned with the educational and learning gaps we are likely to see coming out of this challenging year. Underpinning all of this, will be a need to focus on the mental health of our employees and students as we work our way through this unprecedented time.
- Additionally, it is essential that we stay poised to handle the continued growth we are seeing in our district. We need to be certain we are planning appropriately for the significant growth occurring around us, ensuring that we are building and staffing appropriately for growth levels while practicing appropriate financial stewardship. We need to maximize the bang for our buck with every dollar we spend, making sure we are being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers, while being certain our investments lead to ensuring the educational needs of EVERY student in our district are being met.
- Finally, as a board member, I am concerned with the ways in which the state funding process continues to interject instability into our educational process. The lack of certainty in state funding, continued unfunded state mandates, etc., make it



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increasingly difficult to insure we are properly resourced to do all we need to be doing to ensure we are creating a culture of excellence and meeting the needs of every student.

How important is it for the district to provide competitive salaries and benefits for all employees including veteran teachers?

As evidenced by my voting history and comments during board meetings, it is extremely important to me that we provide competitive salaries and benefits to our employees. I passionately believe that our employees are our most valuable resource! I consistently support our desire as a district to ensure that we are offering competitive salaries; and I have consistently voted in favor of pay increases, additional stipends, salary benchmarking, creative incentives to attract and retain quality teachers, additional health care benefits, etc. To me, this is an area in which we cannot take our eye off the ball, especially considering the very trying year we have had due to Covid.

How will you use input gained from district employees, community members, parents, and students to inform decisions made by the school board?

I am a firm believer that the best decisions are made when input is gathered from ALL stakeholders. I have consistently encouraged our administrators to utilize various methods of gathering cross-functional input across all constituents to ensure we are making the best decisions possible. For example, when hiring our current superintendent, Dr. Chadwell, I was part of the team who employed the process of conducting many employee, student, parent and community focus groups and surveys to be certain we understood the desired characteristics in a superintendent that matched our community's needs. As a board member, I have consistently asked that we seek out and include all stakeholders' input in our decision-making processes at all levels.

Please discuss any other issue you feel is relevant to your election to the Board of Trustees

While not directly related to my campaign, as a current board member, I would be remiss if, given this opportunity to reach out to your organization, I didn't use the platform to tell you just how grateful I am for what you, as educators, do for our children every day. I am in awe of all that each of you give to our students each day – especially in this trying year, where Covid constraints have caused us to ask more of you than ever before! And our amazing educators have stepped up to the job! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Please know that the extraordinary things you have done this year have not gone unnoticed! We are so proud of the great things happening in EMS ISD every day!

I have absolutely loved serving EMS ISD in the role as board member. I humbly ask for your vote on May 1st so I can continue to serve you and the entire EMS ISD community! Thank you!