



SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Ron Franklin

Candidate for Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, Place 6

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

My name is Ron Franklin and I recently retired after 31 years in education. I was the Head Choir Director at Boswell High School for 30 years. I have 4 daughters who attended EM-S schools K-12. I have been married to my amazing wife Stephanie for 28 years and we have lived in this community most of our lives.

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

With 31 years in the classroom, I have a strong understanding of the unique challenges our teachers are facing today.

As a parent of EM-S students, I have seen the successes our district has provided for our students and I'm aware of the opportunities we have for growth and improvement.

I have a passion for student success and greatly value the teachers, employees, paraprofessionals, and administrators who make success possible. I am hardworking, dedicated, trustworthy, honest and strive to be consistently fair in all circumstances.

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

I'm currently a member of the district's Facilities Planning Committee and was elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee over District Programs this year.

I substitute teach and drive a school bus for all EM-S schools.

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

- a. I think we are experiencing a shortage of teachers and substitute teachers unlike anything we've ever seen. We need to make sure our teachers feel valued, supported, and equipped. We have amazing "Master Teachers" in this district who can mentor our new teachers to help them experience the same success in their classroom.
- b. For the past 20 years or so, our community has experienced tremendous growth. Our administration and past school board members have done an amazing job of staying ahead of the growth so that our students can enjoy the facilities and learning environment necessary for success. While working with the Facilities Planning Committee the past 2 years, we understand that the rapid growth is only going to continue. We, as a district and a community need to continue to be forward thinking with regards to future schools, buildings, and programs.
- c. Fiscal Responsibility – I believe that we must remain responsible and wise with district funds. We must provide our students with every necessary tool for success while being cognizant of the financial impact on the community.

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

I believe our students deserve to have the 'cream of the crop' and not the 'bottom of the barrel' with regards to their teachers. When teaching positions become available, I want the best new teachers out of college to consider EM-SISD first and I hope we can pique the interest of experienced teachers from other districts to come join our already amazing staff. At the same time, I would never want another district to take our best teachers from our students. Competitive salaries, a great work environment and an amazing culture are the recipe to keep and create the best staff.



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If you get elected as a school board member, how will you support teachers in regard to student behaviors, classroom management, and campus safety?

Student behavior, classroom management and campus safety all go hand in hand. I believe that the number one key to positive student behavior is a teacher's relationship with the students. I believe that teachers must earn the right to be heard by their students and we do that when they realize we care about them as people. If we stand in the hallway and yell at students we don't know, we will have very little success. However, if we spend time in the hallway visiting with students, asking if they won their game or how their mom's surgery went, that student is going to respond well when we need to correct a behavior. We must invest in their lives so they might see the value in investing in their own lives. Classroom management and student behavior is easily accomplished when our students know that we respect them because we care about them. We have many teachers in our district that do this amazingly well and a few that struggle with classroom management. We need successful teachers to mentor teachers who haven't yet experienced that success. When teachers do not have successful classroom management then students are frustrated and act out resulting in the teacher becoming frustrated. Unfortunately, and too often these days, that frustrated teacher is choosing to quit the profession which has become a large part of our teacher shortage. As for campus safety, I believe the number one danger to our kids is when kids act out toward each other. If we as teachers model respect and care toward each other, then our students will know what it's supposed to look like.

Please discuss any other issue you feel is relevant to your campaign for the EMS ISD School Board.

I love this school district and this community. I spent virtually my entire teaching career in EM-SISD and I never considered going anywhere else. When I was hired in 1990, we had one high school, one middle school and five elementary schools. I was here when we were a small-town school district, and I was fortunate to be a part of our unprecedented growth. This is my home and I hope to serve this community in the same way this community has served me and my family.