



SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

LaTonya Woodson-Mayfield

Candidate for Crowley ISD, Place 2

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

I am a 27-year resident of CISD, returning home to Texas from California after my husband, a Navy veteran, and Gulf War and Operation Desert Shield/Storm hero, completed his tours of duty. After conducting extensive research, we decided to purchase our first home in CISD in 1996. Six years later, we started our family and became the proud parents of two future CISD students. My son is a Class of 2020 graduate and is currently a college junior majoring in business, and my daughter is a Class of 2024 student with aspirations of becoming an elementary school teacher. For the past 23 years, we've attended Great Commission Baptist Church, a long-time partner of CISD.

One of my favorite quotes is by Anthony J. D'Angelo who wrote, "*Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.*" Indeed, my learning is intentional and often, and it comes in many forms, including having simple, candid, everyday conversations with all kinds of people. Everybody has a story and I'm always interested to learn about and intrigued by peoples' journeys in life, and their motivations, backgrounds, needs, goals, and fears, and so much more. I truly believe that conversations can help break barriers of understanding and build relationships.

I also strongly believe in the power of education, that it opens the door to many opportunities. I am a first-generation college graduate, having earned my undergraduate degree in Speech Communications from Texas Christian University. I am very thankful to my parents for encouraging me to pursue my college aspiration, even though they were not able to support me financially. I later earned my master's degree in Human Resource Management and Training from Amberton University, and my doctoral degree in Applied Technology, Performance Improvement from the University of North Texas.

For therapy, self-care, and fun, I enjoy reading, writing, and shopping! I can browse for hours and hours in one department store. I also enjoy going to the gym and taking long walks with my husband. Also, a little-known fact: I once pitched a talk show idea for the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), hoping to be one of its first talk show hosts. It was one of my favorite experiences!

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

First and foremost, everything I do and every decision I make in my role as a trustee has always been and still is in the best interest of our students, particularly in the area of academic achievement. As a parent, community leader, volunteer, and a 30-year business professional, I sincerely believe that I bring a comprehensive skill set and experience to the role as trustee. Specifically, I have leadership experience as a member/advisor on several boards and committees. Through my leadership, I have helped guide and support the district and other organizations in their mission and vision, recognizing our strengths, as well as our opportunities. With the district opportunities, such as academic, safety and security gaps, I utilize my strategic planning skills to study trends, create the aspirational and attainable goals to close those gaps, and evaluate the outcomes. I also have a keen focus on equity, making sure that students get the support and resources they need to reach their optimal level, and recognizing that one size does not fit all.

Other qualifications I have include creating a sense of community, relationship building, and promoting collaborations, all of which are great practices for our students in the classroom and beyond. Colleges and universities, as well as businesses expect students to have these basic skills when they graduate high school and pursue college, career, and/or military. As a trustee, I lead by example and I want and expect our students to be good corporate citizens, wherever their paths lead.

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What's often not said about qualifications for being an effective trustee, is how important having empathy and interpersonal communication skills are, both of which help guide my heart, my reactions, and decisions. I am focused during meetings and interactions with constituents and stakeholders, being careful to listen with an open mind and compassion, and without prejudice. I always maintain a professional demeanor and manage my emotions, no matter how sensitive or challenging situations can be. My priority and focus are our students and their overall well-being and academic success.

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

I have volunteered on numerous district committees, including Equity, Parent & Community Engagement, Strategic Planning, and Finance, as well as parent booster clubs, such as football and dance. I've also been an advisor with our P-tech program since its inception. I also enjoy reading to Pre-K and kindergartners and participating in career days and other events at various schools. Using my corporate network, I've also engaged with several companies to sponsor, host, and hire CISD students for immersive, experiential learning experiences.

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

The top three issues facing CISD are 1) Academics, particularly middle school academics in both math and reading, 2) Safety/Security, including student discipline, and 3) College, Career, and Military Readiness.

The current data suggests a need to focus on each of those areas. Based on the data, there appears to be some correlation and intersectionality of other factors contributing to these gaps. My focus will be to clearly understand what the individual and collective data are indicating and then establish SMART goals and initiatives for each one.

Do you have any specific changes you want to see in the district's curriculum?

The curriculum in CISD conforms to state mandates regarding course offerings and essential knowledge and skills. The district is also adept at making necessary revisions and updates per changes in state mandates. CISD conducted a comprehensive curriculum audit in 2016-2017 and established a District Improvement Plan as a result of the audit. Improvements were made in several areas, and they have resulted in academic growth since then. I am confident that the district's continuous improvement process works to improve instruction and target student areas of need. Therefore, I do not have any specific change requests or recommendations regarding the district's curriculum at this time.

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

One of the major issues affecting schools across the country is school safety, which encompasses multiple areas, such as bullying, violence, criminal acts, drugs, and other areas. Any or all these areas make it difficult for teachers to teach and students to learn, especially when offenses are repeated daily. Outside of the classroom, but still on campus, safety is also a concern as many incidents happen after school or during school sponsored events.

One of the ways I would support teachers is to ensure district policies and guidelines are clear regarding student behaviors, classroom management, and campus safety, and that those policies are enforced, and addressed appropriately when they are not followed. I do think it's imperative for the district to conduct a root cause analysis in each of those areas, as well as a collective audit or assessment. The findings will help guide the district on how to address each area for improvement.

Other areas of support I would give teachers is ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary and innovative tools and resources they need to do their jobs successfully. That includes professional



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Other areas of support I would give teachers is ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary and innovative tools and resources they need to do their jobs successfully. That includes professional development, mental and emotional health support, and a competitive compensation program, inclusive of a recognition program for their hard work and dedication. It also means ensuring that the “teacher’s voice” is included on key initiatives. As efforts are being made to instill inclusive environments for our students, we should also promote inclusivity and psychologically safe environments with our teachers. Teachers should have an opportunity to express thoughts/ideas, questions, challenges, and grievances in a safe environment.

Finally, I acknowledge the lack of parent engagement beyond elementary school declines with each upper grade level, and that needs to be addressed. To provide additional support to our teachers, I would advocate for more parental involvement and effective parent-teacher partnerships to jointly support our students. With parents and teachers already aligned on the goal of student achievement and positive outcomes, meaning they both want the best for their child(ren)/students, supporting their partnership makes sense. So, more creative opportunities to promote the parent-teacher partnership would help support our teachers and create a win-win-win for parents, teachers, and students.

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

I am a servant leader, and I am honored to serve CISD with full integrity, honesty, and dedication. I have the highest expectation for our district, fully confident that we will reach our North Star of being an A-rated district and the top district in Tarrant County.

As a parent, I am very thankful to our teachers, staff, and administrators, as well as a whole village of community, business, and faith-based leaders that have poured into my children’s growth over the years. I want the absolute best for them and all students in CISD, no matter their background, economic status, abilities, or disabilities. My goal and everything I do is to make sure all students reach their full potential by giving them the necessary tools and resources, safe and nurturing environments, and experiential learning experiences to do so.