



Prosper School Board Candidate – Kelly Cavender

What are the district's greatest capital needs right now? How do you think those needs should be addressed?

The greatest needs PISD currently faces is funding of at least 4 more high schools, a middle school and multiple elementary schools. As the school district adds new home and commercial businesses the districts ability to issue bonds should increase to cover the cost of these additional schools. My background makes me uniquely qualified in that I understand the construction budget process and building process and how to address budgeting and construction issues.

Given today's environment, how do you propose we keep our students and staff safe?

With recent school shootings, schools need to have solid plans in place to prevent this from happening. Working with Prosper ISD Police along with other local law enforcement and experts in this field I feel we can make Prosper ISD as safe as possible while still providing an open and inviting environment for students to learn in.

In your past professional experience, what criteria do you use to make decisions about hiring people, retaining goods and services, or the effectiveness of a course of action? How will you use these criteria when making decisions as a school board member?

In the course of my job I have overseen in excess of 50 employees. Hiring new employees is a unique challenge. Not only is it necessary to hire someone with the required skills it is also necessary to make sure there personality fits with the existing employees.

I'm a firm believer in "You get what you pay for". Just because it's the cheapest item or lowest bid does not necessarily mean it's the right choice. Buying cheap now may end up costing you more money in the long run.

Having an effective course of action is very important in my job as a commercial lender. I must not only consider the immediate future of decisions I make I also have to sometimes consider 5 to 10 years out to make sure the decisions I make today will be paid back in the future.

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Do you have any specific changes you want to make in school district policies, programs, or the various school curricula being offered? If so, what changes do you want to make and why?

Overall PISD has been ran extremely well by the current administration and there are no specific changes that need to be made. With that said, I have no issues in speaking up and suggesting changes I think would be in the best interest of the school district.

What long-range plan would you want to implement for the school district? (May include growth, curriculum, staffing, and/or parental involvement.)

The current administration has a good grasp on the long range plan and it is being executed as it should be. Due to the slow down of the economy in 2007 the district did not grow as fast as expected and some new schools were slow to be added. With Prosper now being one of the fastest growing communities in DFW we need to make sure and have resources ready and available for the growth that is occurring.

What is your view of the respective roles of the school committee, the superintendent, school councils, and teachers in the development and selection of classroom curricula, textbooks, etc.?

I fill that any group that is involved in the development and selection of curricula and textbooks needs to include a diverse group of individuals with various backgrounds and opinions. Kids should be taught historically accurate information that is not biased towards one particular viewpoint.

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What is your opinion of the current school district policies towards students with special needs, (i.e., mainstreaming behavioral problem students, English as a second language, gifted & talented, breakfast programs, students who face the problems of poverty, family problems, etc.)?

It's important to include all students, regardless of special needs, in all aspects of school. From special needs kids being in regular classes with regular kids, to being involved in extra curricular activities.

As more students from different countries migrate to the the US english will not normally be the primary language they speak. We must try and do what we can to accommodate these students to provide them with the best education possible.

Gifted and talented programs are an important part of any school as they are there to challenge and enrich the brightest minds the school has to offer.

Breakfast programs provide students who otherwise may not have access to food a way to fuel their body so they can proform there best at school and it is a very important program a school can offer.

Drugs are prevalent in schools across the country. What can we do to reduce the drugs in Prosper schools?

The first line in reducing drugs in schools is making sure parents know to discuss the danger of drugs to their children. The school district also plays an important roll by educating not only the children but also the parents in current drug use trends and prevention methods.

How do we stop bullying?

Bullying is one of my biggest concerns in schools today. With online social media, bullying can be a 24/7 occurrence. Schools need to find ways to reduce this problem. This includes having all teachers, staff, and administrators on board to prevent bullying from occurring. We need to have a "See Something, Say Something" attitude with students on bullying. Schools have professionals in place to address issues both with the bully and the student being bullied.