



School Board Candidate Information Sheet

Candidate Name: **Page Rander**

Board Position Sought: **District 4**

1. Please share some background about you and your interest in serving on the Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Service. It's what I was born to do. Years before I started my board service, even years before I could speak my mind, I stood alongside my mom, watching her advocate for my dad's release from a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp. Like our young learners in Clear Creek ISD, I absorbed everything going on around me. Believe it or not, I understood what it was that we, as a family, and as a country, were experiencing. Little did I know, that 45 years later, it would be the standard for what I would do as a trustee in Clear Creek ISD.

So what does this mean today and for this community? It means that I am a strong willed, thoughtful, discerning advocate for students, staff and citizens. I came to this position and continue to serve YOUR agenda – NOT mine or anyone else's. In the past seven years of shrinking and/or stagnant resources, your board has continued to provide access to an exceptional educational experience for all students.
2. List your participation in CCISD schools and/or district parent clubs, community and civic involvement, etc.

Ex-officio member, Clear Creek Education Foundation
Current PTA member, Wolverine CommYOUity VIP member
2013 Master Trustee, Leadership TASB
Director, Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Region 4B
Past representative, TASB Legislative Advisory Council (one of only four statewide positions)
Director, Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards
Director, We Go Public
Member and ruling elder, A Community of the Servant Savior, PC-USA
Past community involvement:
Seminar Chair-Texas Gulf Coast (1999, 2000), Lower Midwest Director (2001-2003)
Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminars
Brookside Intermediate Boys' Athletics Booster club volunteer
Clear Brook HS Golf Booster club volunteer
Team mom for both YMCA and little league sports

3. Considering your skills and talents, what positive contribution would you make as a member of the Board of Trustees?

As the incumbent candidate, I bring both the past experience of serving this district, but also with my professional knowledge of how governmental entities operate. I appreciate the nuances of school district/governmental finances along with how and why decisions are made. I also understand public education and what needs our students have as 21st century learners

4. In your opinion, what role do trustees play in affecting student success?

Students are our first and most important focus as a trustee. We must be mindful of trends in student learning progress. Every decision that a trustee makes must focus on providing resources and a safe learning environment that supports a student's learning and personal growth. If I am not making these types of decisions or if I'm not supporting the students, they will be less successful.

5. What critical challenges face the district, and what are possible solutions to address those issues?

Public school funding

We saw some gains with HB3 in the 86th Session, but we can't lose that ground now that Texas faces challenges brought on by combating COVID-19. There are still strides to be made in the state contribution so that Texans, as tax payers, don't continue to contribute to an unfairly devised funding system.

Safe and Secure Schools (which includes health safety)

Prior to March 2020, "safe and secure schools" meant providing a "safe from violence" environment for students and staff. Last May, as Clear Creek ISD closed out the 2019-20 school year, we began to think about this school year and what that would look like in the face of a pandemic. I believe that as teams supporting educators, the governor, TEA and local boards should continue to find ways to support our communities so that we continue to curb the virus spread - not contribute to it. We should remain flexible in our options to honor the needs of all students and families. Just as there is no one-size-fits-all solution to education, there is nothing like that for everyone returning to the school house. I hope that the work will continue collaboratively and respectfully.

Accountability

More specifically, I believe that there is an over dependence on the A-F accountability system. Given last spring's response to the pandemic, it was evident that testing was not possible and that we can function without high-stakes testing that drives Texas' A-F system. With the possibility of dealing with long-term response to and changes in how we deliver education, TEA and lawmakers will need to be open to ideas that provide the best reporting and accountability to our communities. We don't have to sacrifice quality just because the scale is a little different. Currently, I look forward to discussion on HB 773, HB 1147, HB 1302 and HB 1309/SB382.

Equity among districts and for students within districts

Not every district is fortunate to say that equitable opportunities are available from campus to campus. Nor can the State of Texas boast about equity from district to district. It's unfortunate that the state does not see this as a fundamental issue that needs to be addressed. Education is the great equalizer.

Why can't small, rural districts or an economically disadvantaged urban district be any less successful at educating the next governor or astronaut? A student's disadvantage should not be a road block to them. The other aspect of this is treating students equally, regardless of their socio-economic background or the color of their skin. We need to work together to understand the challenges that students have when they walk through our doors each day. Educators and education cannot provide all the answers, but there should not be roadblocks to a student feeling safe and nurtured in the schoolhouse.

6. Please provide campaign website and/or contact information.
e-mail address pagerander4ccisd@swbell.net
Website TBD