



Candidate Questionnaire

An Initiative of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce

Seekatz, Kellye S

Kellye

Name (last, first, middle)

Preferred name

Bastrop ISD School Board Trustee, Place 2

21

Which office are you seeking?

of years in the community

PO Box 2054, Bastrop, Texas 78602

Address

City

State

Zip

n/a

n/a

Campaign Website

Campaign Facebook

512-923-1247

n/a

seekatz4schoolboard@gmail.com

Cell phone

Campaign phone

Campaign Email

Preferred means of communication: Email Phone Mail Text

Why, in your opinion, are you qualified for this office?

I have been an active part of Bastrop ISD community for twenty plus years, as a parent, an educator, a taxpayer, and now a school board trustee. I believe this gives me a unique perspective of the district and helps guide each decision I make. As a former educator, I understand how initiatives that begin in the board room can impact our teachers and our students. I understand policy goals that are driven by data and how they impact our teaching. I understand the anxiety teachers feel and their desire to make sure every child in their classroom succeeds. As a mother, I understand the expectations of every parent in our district. The joy they feel when their child succeeds and the pain they feel when their child stumbles. As a business owner, I understand the skills our students need to have to succeed no matter which path they choose (academic or trade). I also understand the hard work it takes to provide real solutions for our students, and I am up for the task.

Please highlight your experiences and accomplishments that you feel have equipped you to serve in an elected capacity:

I earned a bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State University in Political Science with a Paralegal Certification and I also earned a Master of Education from Texas State University (same school, different name). I finished my master's while working at Emile Elementary as a first-year teacher, assisting my husband with our business, and raising a family. For the past six years, I have had the privilege to serve as a trustee and currently the secretary of Bastrop ISD's school board. We have great momentum, so many great things are happening in our district. I am committed to public education and I am not afraid of the hard work necessary to lead this district into the future.

List your involvement with community organizations over the last 24 months:

As a school board member, most of my involvement in the community revolves around the school district.

- Mentoring students
- Back to School Bashes providing school supplies for students
- Read Across America
- Winter Blast providing coats, books, and toys for students
- Judging Science Fairs and Lego Contest
- YMCA Movies in the Park

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Please rank what you feel are the top 3 campaign issues, explaining your position and why

1. Growth - Our biggest challenge is growth. Since the last bond was passed our district has grown by more than 3,000 students. We are expected to grow by an additional 4,425 students in the next five years. Even with the impact of Covid 19, our numbers have continued to grow. As of this year, seven of our schools are overpopulated and next year it is projected to be nine. Our demographer has projected that in the next 5 years eleven of our schools will be overpopulated.
2. Pandemic Recovery - Let's face it, this pandemic did not come with a survival kit. Last March when schools across the nation were forced, almost overnight, to transition to an online learning platform it caught everyone by surprise. However, our community is no stranger to disaster recovery and as in the past every person in our school district and the community worked overtime to ensure our students were taken care of. This year and years to come are about recovery. We need to identify and apply innovative strategies that will support students who are struggling with learning gaps created by time out of the classroom. We need to look at the psychological impact this pandemic has had on our students, teachers, and parents.
3. School Safety, Security, and Discipline - Children learn best in an environment in which they feel safe. School crisis and emergency training creates a framework for safe and successful schools and our administration, principals, teachers, and staff have undergone extensive training with our very own BISD Officers. There is always room for improvement, and we must stay up to date with cutting edge technology that will contribute to our student's safety.
Discipline is not just suspensions or other interventions that pull students out of class for extended periods of time. Discipline must also include teaching our students to take responsibility for their actions, the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors, and habits which include self-control.

Additional comments:

I am incredibly proud of each person involved with our district and how we came together during the past year to support our students. When things went wrong, and they did, we responded with GRIT, a term I borrowed from our BISD counselors. Gratitude for what we have, resilience to bounce back, initiative to problem solve and approach difficulties creatively, and tenacity to never give up.

What are your suggestions to increase voter turnout?

I have seen some programs that teach students about budgets and real-world finances. However, we do not teach our students how their vote can impact their budget and future income through taxes and other policies. We need to spend more time teaching that their vote counts. Understanding will increase their participation.

Kellye Seekatz

03/25/2021

Electronic Signature

Date

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