



WATER VALLEY ISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONS



Candidate Name: Janna Sears Naylor

Candidate Email Contact Information: jnaylor05@hotmail.com

What motivates you to want to become or continue to be a board member?

Student achievement is most important motivation to me. Although athletics and extracurricular activities are fun and important in teaching students about teamwork, leadership, work ethic, accountability, etc, academic achievement is at the top of my list. A well-rounded student that is prepared to enter adulthood when they graduate by becoming a productive member of society is the epitome of success in my eyes. Students deserve to receive a top-notch education in a safe and thought-provoking environment. This is not possible without structure and great teachers.

Teachers are the essential core in growing student achievement. They are arguably one of the most influential people in our students lives during childhood. Teachers deserve to have the freedom to teach with creativity while being challenged themselves and challenging their students to be better than they were yesterday. Clearly drive and determination is required to be a great teacher. It's obtained from feeling confident in their skill set and by knowing they have full support of our administration and school board. Enabling them to actively seek and utilize those tools each and every day is essential to producing a successful District. My goal is to help both the teachers and students feel prepared, successful, and supported throughout their journey at WVISD.

What has been your personal involvement with Water Valley ISD?

WVISD has been a part of my family for years. My grandfather, both my parents, my brother and I, my husband, my son, my niece and nephew and so many of my cousins have attended and are currently attending WVISD. I love this school. My husband and I purposefully built a house in this school district so that my son would be able to experience a small school as we both did.

I currently serve as the Treasurer on the WV Athletic Booster Club. I have served in this capacity for several years now. I was elected as a Trustee to the WV School Board and have proudly served for the past four years. As a proud Wildcat, I love to contribute and support wherever I'm able to.

What do you see as the opportunities and challenges in this district?

I believe that physical security and safety of our teachers, students and staff continue to be a challenge for every school district across our nation. Considering recent tragedies, we have all had to reevaluate the realization of legitimate threats our schools are faced with every day. It's easy to get complacent in any small town. Most have probably even thought, "Nothing like that would never happen here". As sad as it is, we must be prepared for the possibility that it could happen here. Hindsight is always 20-20 and it's very easy to sit back and criticize what should have been done differently. We have to remember that we are all human and mistakes will be made, but it's our duty to be as proactive as possible now to equip our District to be as prepared as possible for these threats.

As a community member, parent and school board member, it is extremely important to me for us as a District to do whatever is necessary to ensure that our school is equipped with the proper equipment, training, and support to prevent or Heaven forbid react quickly and efficiently to any situation they are presented with.

We have made great strides recently in improving the current facilities, plan of action and training for all on campus to address the possible threats to our District. We as a team of 8 have made it a priority to be proactive in this matter.

In your view, what has the district done well over last four years? What has the district done poorly that you would change?

I am very proud to have been a part of establishing the education scholarship fund. This is an opportunity for all students to receive financial assistance in furthering their education beyond high school. Whether they decide to attend college or a trade school, this fund is available to them.

We as a team of 8, have also implemented a teacher grant tool that gives teachers an opportunity to receive extra funds for their classroom. We have also been able to bless the teachers with multiple stipends over the past 4 years.

The most visible improvement for the district is all of the new construction that is currently in progress. Our students will greatly benefit from the new Cafetorium. We are looking forward to the new updated additions including the exterior restrooms, weight room, ag building and tennis courts. Although it has been a long, slow process, it will be worth it once it is complete as the improvements will benefit the entire District.

Over the course of these past 4 years, I believe that communication has been an area that needed improvement. With all the bond, construction, changing of football status, etc, it has been a major hurdle to overcome. We have worked diligently to improve and will continue to work on having better communication across the District.

What are the outputs/goals that matter most to you? How will you be accountable for them as a school board member?

I believe I answered this in the 1st question with what motivates me to be a board member. That is student achievement. Making or modifying policies that allow students and teachers to be successful should be our priority. Our teachers need to be supported in a way that allows them to empower every student to reach their full potential every day. Each student should be well equipped to enter the adult world with confidence and determination to become a productive member of society whether that be as a continuing student in college or a trade, or part of the workforce. To accomplish that goal, I believe it is our responsibility as board members to ensure every opportunity has been given to both the teachers and the students in a safe and secure environment. This includes everything from training and materials for teachers, to adequate classrooms and equipment, to classes/electives offered, to funding needed across all aspects of the District. We as board members have an obligation to seize the moment and do our best to come together as a team of 8 and plan and prepare for the future.

Describe the role of the superintendent?

The role of the superintendent is to manage the daily operations of the District. They are responsible for managing the District's budget, overseeing the staff and ensuring that the District remains on task to attain the goals set for the District to achieve academic excellence.

If a parent or a community member comes to you regarding, for example, a maintenance issue at a particular campus or a situation involving a particular teacher, how do you see your role as a school board member in resolving that issue?

It is important for the parent to address the issue following the proper chain of command. That could include the teacher, the principal, the coach or in some instances the superintendent. If the parent does this and are not satisfied with the outcome, they would proceed to the next level giving the District the opportunity to address and resolve the issue in a timely manner. If they have exhausted all levels within the District and still are not satisfied, then they would need to follow the grievance process.

I believe it is extremely important for all parents to be heard when they have issues or concerns pertaining to the District. With that being said, unless you voice your concern to the individual it pertains to, it is near impossible to resolve it. I've learned over the years in my own life that I can get much more accomplished, and my opinions be heard by voicing my concerns in a respectful and professional way. I work in customer service and have the pleasure of dealing with all kinds of people. I know how important it is to remain level-headed and open-minded when communicating a problem or situation if the goal is truly to find resolution. There is always more than one perspective to a situation and if both parties are respectful, honest and willing to see both sides, it's likely that a reasonable resolution acceptable to both parties will be reached.

As a school board member, from whom will you seek advice or input in weighing key decisions?

I believe it is important for every student, parent, teacher, and community member to be heard. I value other opinions and ideas as there is power in brainstorming and round-table discussion. There are multiple ways of accomplishing a task and it would be foolish to assume that mine is always best. Hence why we have a team of 8. It is important for all of us to be able to express our thoughts and opinions without judgement. With that being said, it has always been important to me to be an independent thinker and not a yes man or follower. I was raised to stand up for what I believe is right even if that is against the grain. I won't lie, sometimes it is hard. But I'm not afraid of hard. I will always do what I believe is right in the moment unapologetically. You risk standing for nothing if you don't stand for something. It is imperative, however, that when a decision is made by the majority in our Team of 8, that each member support that decision regardless of which side of the vote they were on. This is the ultimate commitment each board member makes when being elected as a Trustee to the team of 8.

How will you build consensus and support in the community around the work of the school district?

I encourage community members to attend the board meetings and get involved in something. Coming to meetings is the best way to learn the inner workings of the board and the District. You have a right to speak and be heard. Although most of the time people only sign up to speak when they are upset about something, people should also be encouraged to speak on something positive as well. Getting involved in the District in some capacity (volunteer, booster club, committee member, etc) is the best way to evoke change, create school spirit and build a stronger more successful District.

Based on the Texas Education Code, what is the primary role of the school board of trustees member and of the board as a whole?

The board is responsible for hiring and evaluating the superintendent. They adopt policies and budgets with advice of superintendent that enable the District to be financially sound and academically successful. They set District goals and monitor success of those goals. On occasion, the board may vote to modify the policies currently in place or create a new policy to better serve the District.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the voting constituents of WVUSD that you believe is a reason they should support you in this election?

I have proudly served for the past 4 years as a Trustee on the WV School Board. I have taken pride in being part of the team of 8 who sought for the bond approval that ultimately allowed our District to make some improvements that were both needed and wanted. This also allowed us to create a scholarship program designed to assist our students in furthering their education beyond high school. I hope that you would vote for me to serve as Trustee for another 2 years. I love having the opportunity to be a voice for our students, teachers and community. I am a

home-grown 3rd generation Wildcat so it goes without saying that I am rooted and committed to doing my part to ensure our District is strong and successful. It would be an honor to have your vote.



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As a school board member, you will be responsible for ensuring that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students. One of the most important factors in determining the quality of education is the quality of the teachers. How do you plan to ensure that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students?

1. I plan to ensure that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students by focusing on the quality of the teachers.

2. I plan to ensure that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students by focusing on the quality of the curriculum.

3. I plan to ensure that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students by focusing on the quality of the facilities.

4. I plan to ensure that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students by focusing on the quality of the community.

5. I plan to ensure that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students by focusing on the quality of the leadership.

6. I plan to ensure that the school district is providing a high quality education for all students by focusing on the quality of the budget.

- A. All of the above
- B. None of the above
- C. I am not sure
- D. I will focus on the quality of the teachers
- E. I will focus on the quality of the curriculum
- F. I will focus on the quality of the facilities
- G. I will focus on the quality of the community
- H. I will focus on the quality of the leadership
- I. I will focus on the quality of the budget



WATER VALLEY ISD5CHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONS



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1. How do you plan to support the district's efforts to improve student achievement?
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