



WATER VALLEY ISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONS



Candidate Name: Wes Sutton

Candidate Email Contact Information: wes.sutton@wvisd.net



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

I have served for twelve years on the board of trustees of Water Valley ISD. What motivates me to want to continue serving on the board is student success and understanding how that success is achieved and measured.

2. What has been your personal involvement with Water Valley ISD?

I have served for twelve years on the board of trustees of Water Valley ISD. I have been an active member of booster organizations for fifteen years and worked in the press box for fourteen years, calling JH, JV football, and announcing the band on Friday nights. I have always been readily available to volunteer help to any organization or function when needed. I have attended almost every school board meeting for the past 15 years.

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

I see the potential opportunity for more funding through the wind power and solar resources. With continued growth of our community, we could offer more opportunities for the students of Water Valley. The most challenging obstacle we will face in our future is finding and retaining good educators. The state of Texas measures success of students by growth, without highly qualified educators' students will not grow.

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

The last four years have been a challenging to say the least. We went through a pandemic that was challenging to education. Our district in comparison to many, I feel did a great job during this time. We maintained a vision and stayed on track with our current goals/ With the support of our community, we passed a bond that will benefit students at Water Valley for years to come. The school board successfully worked together to create a scholarship program that will benefit every student graduating Water Valley from now on. Construction of our facilities are currently underway, and the quality of those projects have been closely monitored for the taxpayer to insure they receive what they paid for. We have implemented safety protocols to the best of our abilities and continue to research and refine better methods to keep students at Water Valley safe.



WATER VALLEY ISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONS



(.4 Continued) The one thing I feel that we could do better is using our social media tools to keep the community abreast of the construction process. As I stated in the beginning, the last four years have been challenging and we can only change the future and learn from the past.

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

My goal for our district is to continue recruiting and retaining good educators, by providing goals to the superintendent of our district. We as a board must create goals for the district that will attract those highly qualified educators. An outcome is the work being done by a team or person to achieve goals. To achieve any goal in a school board setting, can only be done through the evaluation of the superintendent of the district. Setting clear achievable goals and holding the superintendent accountable for those goals is the way I hold myself accountable as a school board member.

6. Describe the role of the superintendent?

The superintendent works with the school board to develop goals for the district. He or she also provide leadership and oversee the educational enterprise in the district. The superintendent is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations, preparing and administering the district's budget, organizing the districts central administration, and ensuring that the district focuses on its primary mission-student academic achievement and progress (growth).

7. If a parent or 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?

I would direct the individual to the correct chain of command. Board members do not control the day-to-day operations of the district. When a parent or community member has an issue with a staff member or student, it is very important to let them know they need to go through the chain of command. Board members should not get involved with the issues because it could hinder the process should it go to the grievance process.



WATER VALLEY ISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONS



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

A quorum of the board is a majority of the number of members fixed by statute, including non-voting members. We are not considered board members unless there is a quorum present, and a meeting has been posted to the public for at least 72 hours. As a school board member, I would seek advice or input on key decisions from my fellow board members at a legally posted meeting with a quorum present according to Texas Open Meeting Acts. If the board needs outside input from the community, the district can hold public meetings to discuss ideas with the community. During a community meeting the superintendent can discuss district plans and gather information to present to the school board for consideration.

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

Transparency through communication tools provided by the district.

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

- Adopt goals and priorities and monitor success
- Adopt policies and review for effectiveness
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Adopt a budget and set a tax rate
- Communicate with the community

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

My wife Lynn Sutton accepted a teacher position at Water Valley in 2007 and we made the move from Brownwood July of 2007. Once school started in the fall of 2007, I started attending school board meetings. At that time, I was not interested in running for a position on the board. I attended those meetings to learn more about the district my children would be attending school. I have attended every meeting since with very few meetings missed due to my own personal life. I ran for a position on the board in 2008 and was not elected that year. In 2010 I ran once again for a position on the board and was elected and I have served on the board ever since. I offer 12 years' experience to the voters, while I feel it is important for people to run for the board, I also know it is important to have experience serving on your board. No matter the outcome of this election I have valued my time serving the community of Water Valley. If re-elected I will continue serving to the best of my ability for every stakeholder involved. My family loves Water Valley and I appreciate the community allowing me to serve on your school board. Go Wildcats!