



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

Name: Mary Jane Hetrick

Occupation: Nonprofit consultant/adjunct professor

Years in DSISD: 12

Spouse: Tom

Children: Taylor, Mitchell, Trevor

Education: Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Public Policy & Public Administration from Auburn University; Master of Public Administration (MPA) with Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Auburn University at Montgomery; Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Texas-Pan American (now UTRGV)

Why are you interested in serving as a member of the DSISD Board of Trustees?

When I was asked to run for the DSISD board in 2015, I simply wanted to help shepherd our amazing district. I quickly discovered the learning curve is steep. I believe trustee leadership with more than 1-3 years of experience is critical. My doctorate was in public policy/public administration, and I have dedicated much of my adult life to Education and children within that framework. Serving on the board allows me to leverage my knowledge and passion for nurturing the whole child. While I want students to do well on tests required by the Texas Legislature, my bigger desire is for students to gain confidence and critical thinking skills not measured on standardized tests and be prepared for a volatile and unpredictable world and workforce. I am humbled by the opportunity to continue that work.

Describe your involvement in DSISD?

Prior to my election to the DSISD Board of Trustees, I began serving on the board of directors for the DS Education Foundation in 2013, with continuous service through 2024. I have also served in past years as a PTA officer or committee chair at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, beginning in 2012. In my school board trustee capacity, I have served as President, Vice-President, liaison to the DSISD Safety Committee from 2018-2023, and I have chaired several board committees. I have also been active in state and national legislative advocacy on behalf of DSISD.

What community organizations are you actively involved in?

- I have been an active member of Canyon Church (previously Sunset Canyon Baptist Church) since 2012 and chaired the United We Build Committee for our new Family Life Center.
- I helped launch Foster Village in 2016, have been a board member since 2017, and board president since 2020.
- I am the co-founder of Patriots' Hall of Dripping Springs and have served as the VP/Secretary since its inception in 2019.
- I have served on the Dripping Springs Education Foundation board of directors since 2013, serving as the VP of Development, the VP of Strategic Planning, Innovative Teaching Grants chair, and other committee roles through the years.
- I am an active member of The Sarah Pound Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as the DAR Service for Veterans Chair.

Additionally, I provide pro bono consulting for other Dripping Springs-area nonprofits.

How has education impacted your life?

Both of my parents were Texas public school educators and were passionate about pursuing excellence, even in our tiny TX Hill Country towns. From graduating at the top of my class to experiencing college as a student-athlete to pursuing advanced degrees and post-doc certifications, my love of life-long learning remains. I have learned the most about Education through helping my three children navigate their vastly different learning styles and passions. All the while I have been pursuing learning opportunities at the local, regional, and national levels to better guide systems thinking to live our mission of partnering with students, parents, and the community to provide a personal and exceptional education for every student.