

Our family settled in Dripping Springs in the fall of 2000. We specifically chose this community because of the outstanding school system here. My husband James and I have been married over 40 years. Our three children all graduated from DSHS with honors, and all are successfully employed professionals. We deeply appreciate the excellent academic base they received here in DSISD. We are members at Austin Oaks Church, where I teach in the children's department.

Education and Honors: M.Ed. Texas State University, Educational Administration, 2008; B.S. Ed. Abilene Christian University, 1974; Teacher of the Year at Zilker Elementary Campus, Austin ISD, 1977; Outstanding Young Women of America, 1986; Austin ISD Teacher Leadership 2008; Linder Elementary Campus Spirit Award, 2008.

My teaching career includes working as a public school and private school teacher both in Texas and Oklahoma. I am currently a retired Texas public school teacher with a passionate desire to protect children and serve this community.

My Philosophy: Children First. Plan for safety. Listen to the community and respond graciously. Be transparent.

My Vision: DSISD is in a pivotal position, changing from a rural school district to a district with rural areas yet also with many new neighborhoods being built in subdivisions. Belterra has set the standard that many parents want. The developers donated land for a school deep inside the neighborhood, far off HWY 290. The Belterra model of a neighborhood school is one that we should respectfully ask developers to follow, as much as possible.

Since our school system is expected to double in the coming years, this is the time to coordinate with builders to make sure our students are not forced to ride long expensive bus rides twice daily due to poor planning. We need to keep our elementary, and possibly middle school students, safely tucked away inside the new neighborhoods being planned. We should plan to keep them off those long bus rides on Highway 290 and RR 12 as much as possible. The money saved on buses, fuel, and drivers could be channeled to instead directly benefit the children in their schools.

Furthermore, students should always be assigned to the school closest to them. This is common sense. This is in the best interest of the children. Yet, currently some children are not allowed to attend the school closest to them. This is not right.

I am also concerned about school safety. We should not allow any school to be a soft target. DS already has an excellent evacuation plan. We need a study group to look at having equivalent safety features at every school, such as the "buzz in" system currently in place at Sycamore Springs. This group should also look at possibly allowing the school marshal system to be put in place. Over 170 school districts in Texas currently have the marshal program. This group should consider all options, such as possibly hiring more law enforcement personnel for security.

Parents should be fully informed and involved in selecting any sex education program that is taught. DSISD has purchased the 2016 version of the Big Decisions sex ed manual but has not yet implemented it. The manual teaches underage students to role play giving consent for sex and other sexual behavior that opposes the Texas age of consent law. It teaches that some men do not have male body parts. It teaches some women do not have female body parts. It teaches unscientific transgender ideology that may cause some children to doubt their sexual biology. Feel free to email me for a rubric of Big Decisions 2016, with quotes and page numbers: [sharonforschoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:sharonforschoolboard@gmail.com)

DSISD needs to focus on the primary purpose for the school, which is educating children while keeping taxes as low as possible. We should cooperate with the city and other government entities, of course, but never lose sight of the reason for the existence of the school district. I am concerned that being overly involved in the Town Center Project has caused us to lose sight of our purpose, which is educating children. We are being asked in the 2018 bond to eliminate WSES, spend four million dollars to remodel it into a huge administration building, and then rebuild WSES next to DSMS. To many, this does not seem a good use of our tax dollars or adequately provide for a growing student population.

I am committed to improve the transparency of the school board and promise to address and discuss these issues openly. I want to improve the level of trust among the school board, faculty, and parents. Let's work together to make Dripping Springs the absolutely safest and best place to raise a family. I humbly ask for your vote. I would be honored to represent you and work openly with you to always do what is best for our students, teachers, and taxpayers.