

SAGT

Southlake Association for Gifted and Talented
We think outside the box!



School Board Candidate Questionnaire

SAGT: How long have you lived in our district and do you now or have you had children go through our schools?

Place 2 Candidates

FRED STOVALL:

Our family moved to Southlake in 2006. We moved here because we wanted our children to attend great Carroll ISD schools. Both our kids currently attend Durham Elementary. My son Ethan (7) is in kindergarten and my daughter Reagan (4) is in Pre-K. Our experience with CISD and the community has been terrific.

CHRIS ARCHER:

I have lived in the Carroll Independent School District since 1998. I currently have 4 children in the district at Rockenbaugh, Eubanks, Carroll High School and Carroll Senior High School. My oldest daughter, Lauren, graduated from Carroll Senior High School in 2007 and is attending and will graduate from the University of Texas, Austin later this month.

Place 3 Candidates:

SUE ARMSTRONG (Incumbent):

My family and I moved to Southlake in August 2000, almost eleven years ago. My daughter, Sami, started as a second grader at Carroll Elementary; was re-zoned to Rockenbaugh the next year; and will be graduating this June. Brooks started kindergarten at Rockebaugh and is a freshman at Carroll High.

KEITH HOUSER:

I have lived in Southlake for six years. My grandson has been a student all six years, attending Carroll Middle School, Carroll High School and Carroll Senior High School. He will graduate as a Senior June 3. I am here to represent those Southlake taxpayers who have children in school and those who don't. I am against ANY new property tax increases whatsoever. I have retired neighbors who may have to move and leave Southlake because their property taxes are too high on their limited retirement income. These are people who have lived here 20 or more years.



SAGT: Did you vote in the last school board election?

Place 2 Candidates

FRED STOVALL:

Yes.

CHRIS ARCHER:

I did not vote in the last school board election.

Place 3 Candidates:

SUE ARMSTRONG (Incumbent):

I firmly believe in the right and responsibility to vote and have voted in all local, state and federal elections.

KEITH HOUSER:

Yes. I have been an active voter since Barry Goldwater was running for President (if anyone reading this can remember). I am an active Tea Party Republican. Last year I was elected as a Southlake Precinct 3039 Delegate, 12th District Delegate and a Delegate to the 2010 Texas Republican Convention.

I was active in working with the Texas Republican Platform Committees on drafting a Resolution to amend or repeal Robin Hood. ROBIN HOOD MUST END! Those Resolutions were submitted to this years Texas Legislature and have become House Bills now being considered for a vote.



SAGT: How many school board meetings have you attended?

Place 2 Candidates

FRED STOVALL:

I began attending meetings when I started to consider running in December. I have attended the last 13 meetings, including all meetings in 2011.

CHRIS ARCHER:

I have been to every school board meeting since I filed to run for school board. I also have attended board meetings intermittently over the last several years when the topics have been of specific interest to me.

These would include the K-6 discussion, lights at the ball fields, and both the 2006 and the 2009 bond. I also keep up with board meetings via Julie Thannum's emails.

Place 3 Candidates:

SUE ARMSTRONG (Incumbent):

I started attending school board meetings in 2003 on a regular basis, often speaking to the Board on various issues during the "public comment" portion of the board meetings. I was elected to the Board in May 2005 and have only missed a handful of meetings over the last six years.

KEITH HOUSER:

A minimum of six. I have also attended special parent meetings, the Good Bad & Ugly meeting last October and the SAGT Movie night within the past month.

SAGT

Southlake Association for Gifted and Talented
We think outside the box!



SAGT: What is your position regarding our district's gifted and talented program and the advanced academic courses offered in grades 5-12?

Place 2 Candidates

FRED STOVALL:

I believe that our core mission is classroom education and our gifted & talented programs and advanced courses are a critical part of that mission. As we face our financial crisis, we have to protect our teachers and focus on our classroom instruction.

CHRIS ARCHER:

I believe that a significant percentage of our student body benefits from the GT program and the advanced academic courses that our district offers. These students need the targeted and challenging level of instruction that these programs offer, and our teachers should be well trained in how best to reach these kids. I think that the perception that these kids are easier to teach and that they will learn "on their own" is highly uniformed. We need to provide an environment that allows them to capitalize on their skill sets, not one that allows their gifts to go undeveloped. I myself have a child in the program and I have witnessed firsthand how our programs have accelerated his learning and have inspired him to become even more engaged and involved in academics. I worry about students that become bored and disinterested because they are not challenged and they don't receive the focus they deserve. Carroll must continue to support and expand GT and advanced academic opportunities for our population, and I will work to ensure that this happens.

Place 3 Candidates:

SUE ARMSTRONG (Incumbent):

I have been a consistent support of the gifted & talented program in the district and am an active member in the Advanced Placement Booster Club. During my tenure on the board, we surveyed parents regarding the GT program and created the position of GT Coordinator to provide additional support and direction for this program. With the high number of GT students in the district I believe this program should be expanded, but during this time of public education funding cuts from the state it will be difficult. In fact, the GT program is one of the items on the next tier of cuts the district is considering under the Expense Reduction Plan. The GT program would not be eliminated but there would be a change in how the program is delivered with less resources committed to these students.

I do not support making any cuts to the GT Program.

KEITH HOUSER:

I am a strong supporter of the gifted and talented program. I will encourage SAGT support, meetings and expansion in Southlake.

SAGT

Southlake Association for Gifted and Talented
We think outside the box!



SAGT: Please explain why you are running in this election and how you feel you would benefit our school board and district.

Place 2 Candidates

FRED STOVALL:

I am running because we must solve our financial crisis and live within our means. Nothing is more damaging to our schools than the upheaval caused by a financial crisis. The budget crisis and resulting layoffs we experienced in 2004-05 caused enormous concern in our community. I work with investors to add growth capital to businesses. As a result, I have worked with hundreds of organizations over the last 15 years to help them succeed. I have extensive experience resolving complicated financial issues such as the budget crisis we are facing at CISD. I will not support new taxes because Robin Hood will take over 50% of a tax increase. I will work with other districts to repeal Robin Hood.

As we solve our current crisis, we must focus our priorities on our core mission of classroom instruction and protect our teachers. We must also insure that our teacher and administrators are accountable and treat our parents like customers.

Finally, we need to improve our partnerships in the community. We need term limits to get more citizens involved on our school board. We need to partner with our business community to enhance the strength of business owners that support us. We also need to do a better job communicating with our neighbors to avoid issues such as those recently experienced in Kirkwood Hollow and Stone Lakes related to construction projects.

I would add to our school board through my commitment, conviction and independence. I have demonstrated my commitment by serving on the Budget Committee and being actively involved in local issues and elections. I am fiscally conservative and will represent our taxpayers to insure that CISD is a good steward of our tax dollars. In addition, I will represent our parents to make sure that our administrators and teachers are accountable and responsive to our concerns. Finally, I am not aligned with any faction of the current board or any incumbent. I can ask hard questions about our existing policies and I will make difficult decisions to take us in a new direction of fiscal responsibility.

Please let me know if you or your members have any other questions. I hope I can earn your support in this election.

Email: fred@fredstovall.com

Phone: 817-231-5111

Website: www.fredstovall.com

Facebook: Fred Stovall for CISD

Twitter: FredStovall

CHRIS ARCHER:

I, like so many others, moved here for the opportunities that Carroll would offer my children. I have witnessed the district weather many challenges over the years, and I believe that we have managed to maintain our exemplary status through the hard work of students, parents, and teachers. What I see happening now, as our state government grapples with a huge budget shortfall, presents a new and very difficult hurdle for CISD in maintaining our excellent educational environment. Robin Hood has been a struggle for us, but what is looming on the legislative horizon could devastate our ability to continue to provide the type of opportunities our parents want and our kids deserve. I have spoken out against the dire funding situation, and I have advocated for zero to minimal cuts to the state's funding of school districts as I understand how this will impact Carroll. However, there are many voices, and one of them is my opponent's, that support the highest level of cuts to education. I support the judicious use of the state's reserve funds, which are our tax dollars, to insulate Carroll against the potential for \$8M to \$12M of cuts from the state. However, I also know that pending cuts at the state level are almost inevitable and I want to help CISD overcome that challenge. I am a budget manager and I am responsible for my company's bottom line. My employees count on me to make decisions that ensure that they have a job and a paycheck. My company has improved its profitability every year, even in a down economy. I have the financial skills and experience to help us discover solutions and protect the classroom. I also understand the need for academic programs and extra-curricular activities that will benefit our students in college preparedness. I consider that our kids are our first and foremost priority, and I will work diligently to ensure that all the students of Carroll ISD have the academic opportunity that they deserve.

Place 3 Candidates:**SUE ARMSTRONG (Incumbent):**

As a parent and a taxpayer, I bring a balanced perspective to the Board. I'm passionate about education and believe it is the key to future success. As evidenced by my 6 years of service to this community, I will continue to dedicate my time & energy to constructively work through the issues we face. I would like the opportunity to finish the 2009 bond projects and take a logical, unemotional approach to the budget issues. Hard decisions must be made in order to continue providing an excellent education for our students while making appropriate cuts to the budget. Carroll ISD is a special place because of the involvement of the parents, a community that supports education, the ability & dedication of our teachers, and our outstanding students. I am firmly resolved to protect the quality of education in Carroll ISD and to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment. You can easily look at my voting record on the Board to see that I have the best interests of our students at heart.

KEITH HOUSER:

This nation, our state and community are going through severe financial times. Fortunately, Southlake is in better shape than most communities and school districts. However, it is time for the Carroll ISD School Board to make some tough budget decisions. I as a CEO of a public company and crisis management consultant saw in 2008 that the economy was going to get worse and started micro-managing cuts at my company and advising others to do so.

My wife and I cut up our credit cards January 1, 2008. We are on a cash basis. If we do not have cash, we cannot buy anything.

I am a former secondary education teacher, so I understand the roll and importance of great teachers. With my vast experience being 62 years old I believe I have the knowledge on how to trim the budget without sacrificing funds for the students and teachers.

In my business we micro-managed and cut monthly phone expenses from \$600 per month to \$325 yet we have the same quality of service without any sacrifice. While this seems trivial, if you vote for me I can go through the \$80 million Carroll ISD Budge and certainly can find \$3 million in savings somewhere.

Unfortunately, my opponent Sue Armstrong has a three year track record of increasing the Carroll ISD Budget by 34% when revenues only increased 17%. The continuation of Sue Armstrong's voting record will put the school into bankruptcy. That is why I am running to use my wisdom in making the hard choices.

I have suggested staggering the start and release times of each school day to reduce our busing costs. We need to market the school better to get additional advertising revenue for all of our sports and band programs.

We need to apply for additional grants.

I also will demand that the Carroll ISD Board policy of not releasing school tests back to parents must end. The school mission is to "Work as a partnership with parents in educating children." In my learned opinion, you cannot be a partner if you don't let the parents see at home the successes and shortcomings of their students in their test results. I have been fighting this issue for six years. This must be the year that this bad policy ends.

I have plenty more ideas, but your time is valuable.

*I APPRECIATE YOUR READING MY ANSWERS AND I
RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT IN VOTING
FOR KEITH HOUSER, PLACE 3, CARROLL ISD SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE.*

KEITH HOUSER, CANDIDATE

www.houser4carrollisd.com

[email: khouser4carrolliad@yahoo.com](mailto:khouser4carrolliad@yahoo.com)