



2017 Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Candidates – Biographies

The biographies were supplied by the candidates. Limit: 1,050 characters

Neither the League of Women Voters of Richardson nor the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs edited the biographies.



Place 7, Ballot Position 1: Lynn Davenport (lives in LHHS area)



I'm a native of Richardson ISD, and I live in Lake Highlands with my husband and three children. I graduated from Lake Highlands High School in 1989. I worked for an international Big 6 accounting firm as a Recruiter of business consultants and for the telecom industry. For seven years I have volunteered with Careers in Motion job transitions ministry as a Career Coach. I lead a group of unemployed women in weekly support meetings. In 2014, I began researching education and advocating for public education. I'm a singer and occasional guitarist.

Place 7, Ballot Position 2: Kristin Kuhne (lives in PHS area)



I graduated from Richardson High School and so did my husband, Brad. My path was Spring Creek Elementary and Westwood Junior High and my sons both attended Mohawk Elementary, North JH and JJ Pearce HS. My youngest son, Alex is a junior at Pearce and my oldest Rob is a sophomore at Trinity University.

After graduating from UT Austin with a finance degree, I worked in financial services. I managed a retail credit portfolio valued at \$175 million until my first son was born. Then I became a full-time mom and part-time graduate student at UT Dallas. After earning a Master's in Public Affairs and PhD in public policy, I began my career as a researcher. For more than 10 years, I've researched education policy and best practices ranging from early childhood to college and career readiness. I currently work as the Director of Research for a non-profit called Educate Texas. I work with school districts all over Texas, which offers me unique insights into the practices, policies and resources needed to drive improvements in RISD.

Place 6, Ballot Position 1: Justin Bono (lives in LHHS area)



Justin Bono was elected to the Board in 2014. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Board and previously filled the role of Secretary. Mr. Bono has served on the Bond, Budget, and Legislative subcommittees. He is involved in his local community through service on the Board of Directors for the Exchange Club of Lake Highlands where he was named Exchangite of the Year in 2013. He has also served in multiple other volunteer capacities for the Exchange Club of Lake Highlands including service on the Oktoberfest and Scholarship committees. Mr. Bono is active at Highland Park United Methodist Church where he is currently a lead teacher for the Confirmation class for approximately 300 sixth grade students.

Professionally, Mr. Bono has over 15 years of experience in the real estate, homebuilding and development business. Currently, he is President of Astra Holdings, LLC, a residential real estate development and investment firm. He holds a MS in Finance and a BBA in Accounting from Texas A&M University.

Moderator: Kim Quirk No character limit

Kim has been actively involved in the North Texas community for more than 25 years. She was on the Richardson Independent School District board of trustees for nine years and served five as president. She attended Richardson schools and graduated from J.J. Pearce High School, as did both of her children.

Kim currently serves as the vice chair on Richardson's Cultural Arts Commission, secretary on the board for Richardson Adult Literacy Center and communications chair for Leadership Dallas Alumni Association. Additionally, she is an advisor to Leadership ISD.

Previously, she was on the Chamber's Women in Leadership and Public Policy committees and was tri-chair of the Education Committee. She also served on the Charter Review Commission and the boards of Collin County Community College Foundation, Richardson YMCA, New Beginning Center, Dallas Black Dance Theater and the RISD Excellence in Education Fund.

As an advisor, she was involved with the Greater Dallas Chamber's Technology Business Council and Education Committees, United Way, Boys and Girls Club of Richardson, DFW Minority Business Council, Family Place, Plano ISD Teacher of the Year and Wilmer Hutchins ISD Closure Advisory Team. Professionally, Kim is managing director for Sunwest Communications, where she provides public affairs and public relations counsel for clients. She is also the executive director of Leadership Richardson. She graduated cum laude from Southern Methodist University. She is a graduate of Leadership Dallas, Leadership Richardson and Leadership Texas Association of School Boards.



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Place 3, Ballot Position 1: Joseph Armstrong (lives in BHS area)



Greetings RISD families! My name is Joseph Armstrong, and I excited at the opportunity to serve you and/or your family. I am a 7 year Richardson resident. My wife Julie and I moved to Richardson in 2010 at the point in my 10 year ministry career that I was transitioning to Spring Valley United Methodist Church, where I spent 4 years. In my current career, I serve as President of Team North Texas, a general contracting firm with offices in Richardson and Greenville. In this position, I am responsible for oversight of a multi-million dollar operation and the livelihoods and success of 50+ families. Julie has been employed with the district since we moved to town, currently serving as math coach for both Spring Valley and Dobie elementary. We have nearly 5 year old twins, Harbin and Palmer, who will attend kindergarten at Yale Elementary in the fall. RISD is a part of our daily lives, and I look forward to contributing to its success in the future.

Place 3, Ballot Position 3: Karen Clardy (lives in LHHS area)



I have worked for RISD at Lake Highlands High School for the past 25 years until I retired in June, 2016. I retired to spend more time with my family and to find another avenue on a larger scale to serve RISD. I have the time and energy to be an active and dedicated school board trustee. I have been married for 45 years and have two children (RISD graduates) and three wonderful grandsons. We have lived in the Lake Highlands area for 26 years.

Place 3, Ballot Position 2: Ben Prado (lives in RHS area)

No biography supplied.

Place 3, Ballot Position 4: Eric Eager (lives in RHS area)



Eric has 25 years experience in financial management and technology. He is a CPA with a Masters in Taxation, a former CFO, and has multiple years of experience managing multi-million dollar complex financial budgets. Eric has worked on and helped manage large scale software projects for Dell, ExxonMobil, Hallmark Greeting Cards, and others. Currently, Mr. Eager leads a local entrepreneurial software company which he helped grow to over 25,000 users in 45 countries.

For over 20 years, he has been married to Brenna Eager, and they have twin 14-year-old sons. His boys have attended RISD schools for the last nine years. They went to Northwood Hills Elementary and are currently at Westwood Jr. High and will attend Richardson High School in the fall.

Over the years, Eric has volunteered and served in several organizations from Dallas Rotary Club, YMCA, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Scottish Rite Hospital, among others. He has served in numerous PTA activities at his children's schools.

The job of a Richardson Independent School District Trustee

Richardson Independent School District voters elect seven (7) board members to serve three-year staggered terms. All seven are elected at-large (and serve without compensation. Service on the board is voluntary and members must complete extensive orientation as well as continued training throughout their terms.

The Board of Trustees has the executive power and duty to govern and oversee the management of RISD. Acting as a collective body, the Board sets the direction for the school district. Some of the Board's general responsibilities include:

- Setting district policies and supporting administrators and teachers in the execution of those policies
- Adopting the annual budget
- Employing and evaluating the superintendent
- Levying/collecting taxes and issuing bonds
- Performing specific duties imposed by the state

All registered voters in Richardson ISD vote for all seven RISD Board of Trustees places. Only Places 3, 6, and 7 are on the May 6, 2017, ballot.