

Adolphus "Andy" Anderson

District 2



Section I: Brief Personal Profile

1. Why do you want to be elected an AISD Trustee?

To better serve children not only in my area but in the District as a whole as we are all in this together

2. What personal and professional experiences (e.g. education, high-level leadership roles, previous board experience) most qualify you for service as an AISD Trustee?

I have served and currently serve on many AISD Committees such as the District Advisory Council, Budget and Finance, Boundary, Strategic Compensation (REACH) and the last Bond Package Committee. I was part of the first AISD Up Close Class. I have served as the ACPTA Council President and currently serve as a Field Service Representative for Texas PTA

3. If you are elected to the school board, what would be your greatest area of growth?

Working to ensure all AISD campuses meet Local, State and Federal Accountability Standards while also providing those opportunities for students to be successful once they graduate from the District

4. Provide an example when you had to build consensus and buy-in with people of varying opinions? What was the outcome?

When I was the ACPTA Council President, the current structure was not conducive from a manageable point to the Local PTA's. I worked with my team and developed a new structure which provided more flexibility and greater support to the members

Section II: District Overview

5. What, in your view, are the three biggest challenges facing AISD? What are the district's greatest strengths?

The biggest challenges are Accountability, Budget, and Bonds. The greatest strengths are our children with their abilities to exceed standards in all areas, the teachers and staff who are dedicated to ensuring our children success, and the community for supporting those programs to help our children be successful

6. **The Texas Academic Performance Report indicates that from 2011 to 2014 AISD’s percentage of “college ready” students in both math and English increased from 53% to 61%. During this same time period, the percentage of ELL students graduating from high school college ready decreased from 7% to 2%. What AISD practices and programs are playing into these numbers? What can be done to continue to increase the number of college ready graduates and ensure equitable outcomes for all students?**

The processes in place to properly identify students as an ELL Student. The district should continue this process to ensure those that are truly ELL students are getting the support they need. To Increase college ready, the District should continue those programs that are beneficial to this effort

7. **In May of 2016 a Texas Supreme Court ruling upheld the state’s education finance system as constitutional while recommending top to bottom reforms. Meanwhile, AISD continues to grapple with the effects of the 2011 state education cuts as well as decreasing local tax revenue caused by “recapture”. In such a climate, what should the district’s top budgeting priorities be?**

1) Recruiting and retaining successful teachers, 2) Ensuring Programs offered are being effective for student success and growth

8. **In January of 2016, the Austin Monitor reported that AISD enrollment has dropped by 3,000 students since 2012, which CFO Nicole Conley estimates as a loss of \$49 million in funding. Davis Demographics & Planning, Inc. estimated this number will continue to drop at a greater rate than initially predicted, decreasing another 6,140 students from 2015 to 2025. In what ways does this represent a challenge for AISD, and what is the board’s role in responding? What actions should be taken?**

This is a challenge because as a District we may not be able to fund those Programs which are critical to student success and also be able to recruit or retain those effective teachers. A possible consideration could be to look at those other educational opportunities that our families are selecting for their children and investigate

Section III: Approach to Governance

9. **Identify an important issue affecting a specific district or vertical team within AISD. What priority should the district leadership place on resolving this issue? What trade-offs, in terms of taking time or resources from other areas of need, will be required to fully address this issue? How can the board ensure such sacrifices are mitigated?**

Overcrowded Schools in the Travis and Akins Vertical Teams and the increase in Charter School presence in the same area. The District should take a look at what those schools are offering that AISD is not. A possible trade off with community input could be the creation of an In-District Charter.

10. What expectations do you intend to set for the upcoming term? What will be your top goals and priorities?

I expect to be a supporter of those initiatives which are geared toward student success in AISD. My top goals and priorities will be to ensure those programs which are being effective towards this goal is getting the continued support necessary

11. How would you describe the specific role of the school board in improving education for Austin's students?

The School Board is the responsible body that ensures that the level of Education in Austin is not only the best in the City or State, but in the Country

12. As a board member, one of your important responsibilities will be to engage with parents and other members of the Austin community. What specific actions do you plan to take to fulfill those responsibilities? Provide an example of how you would bridge differences between diverse constituent groups on a given education issue.

My plan is to visit campuses during their CAC or PTA Meetings to engage with them to hear about issues that impact their area as well as our District. I would bridge the differences by ensuring all parties had the correct information to make a sound decision on moving forward.