



**VOTER GUIDE  
FRISCO ISD  
Spring, 2017**

**CANDIDATES  
FRISCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MAY 9, 2017**

**PLACE 4**

ANNE McCAUSAND  
JEFFORY SNOWDEN  
ASANGA JAYATILAKA

**PLACE 5**

DEBORAH GILLESPIE  
GRACE WANG  
BRYAN PAUL POWELL

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## VOTER GUIDE FRISCO ISD Spring, 2017

### PLACE 4

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**ANNE McCAUSAND**



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**Email:** [asangafisd@gmail.com](mailto:asangafisd@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.annefisd.com](http://www.annefisd.com)

**Facebook:** Anne McCausland, Frisco ISD Trustee

**Education:** Bachelors in Marketing & Entrepreneurship, Baylor University; Associates in Nursing, Collin College

**Occupation:** Owner, Operations Manager, DJA Properties, LLC

**Highlights of civic involvement: -**

Leadership TASB Master Trustee

Texas PTA Lifetime Membership Award

Texas PTA Extended Service Award

Texas PTA Emerging Leaders Academy 2012

First Elected to Board in 2011

Served as Board secretary for two years

Numerous leadership positions with the Frisco ISD Council of PTAs and school PTAs

Frisco Education Foundation, Board Member Ex-Officio, 2009-2014

**Platform:**

I will continue to support FISD's academic excellence, innovative programs and extracurricular opportunities for our students, including our district focus on the Whole Child. I also want to make sure maintain our focus on attracting and retaining the highest quality educators and employees.

### **GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**What would you, as a School Board Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that District employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?**

I have served on the FISD board for six years, with an open-door policy not just in word but in deed, and over that time I have had ongoing dialogue with the LGBT community on questions or concerns that arise. Last fall, I attended a panel on transgender students and that truly opened my eyes to challenges and bias that our students and parents can face. Frisco ISD is a diverse community of 56,000 students and 7,000+ staff, and as such we must continue to educate our employees on the importance of teaching, serving, and supporting all students -- including our LGBT students.

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure District hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?**

I will strive to ensure that Frisco ISD does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment, continued employment, or promotion due to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, military status, genetic information, or on any other basis prohibited by law. It is important to note that the EEOC has held that discrimination against an individual because that person is transgender (also known as gender identity discrimination) or due to their sexual orientation is discrimination because of sex and therefore is covered under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

**The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.**

I oppose SB 6. As mentioned above, it takes away the local control of FISD and other school districts. I also believe that this is a mean-spirited law, with an intent that goes against the mission of FISD to "know every child by name and need." Our mission does not say that we should exclude the students whose gender identities are approved by Austin legislators. This is our community. Texas school districts have been quietly, appropriately handling gender issues with students for decades, and we don't need "help" from Austin to do so now.

**Schools that have implemented anti-bullying policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity report fewer problems with school safety. Area districts that have implemented such policies include Dallas, Denton and Ft Worth. How would you work to address LGBT bullying in our schools?**

I will support and work for broad implementation of anti-bullying policies and programs for all students including LGTB. FISD has a Safe School Coordinator and our teachers and staff attend bullying training annually. Our district utilizes the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program which is designed to improve peer relations and make schools safer, more positive places for students to learn and develop. Goals of the program include: • Reducing existing bullying problems among students • Preventing the development of new bullying problems • Achieving better peer relations at school.

No bullying prevention program or policies will completely eliminate bullying, but the goal is to decrease the possibility that it does occur and to respond appropriately when an incident takes place.

**Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?**

I have been an FISD resident since 1992. I became actively involved in FISD in 2001 when my son began kindergarten at Shawnee Trail Elementary. In 2011 I ran for, and won, a place on the FISD Board of Trustees. I have served as the Board President since 2014. For as long as I've lived here, FISD has been a destination district, drawing residents and businesses from all over the country to our member cities. We are admired nationally for our small school model and extracurricular offerings. We have diverse community, high-achieving students in classrooms with the best teachers and administrative support in the area. Further, FISD has accomplished this all while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates of any district in Collin or Denton County. I am proud of Frisco ISD and the work we do in the face of ever-increasing funding cuts and policy interference from Austin. I want to continue working tirelessly and be an advocate for our all our students, employees and FISD residents, all of whom benefit from our great schools. As an ultra-fast growing district we are facing a few challenges, and I believe my six years of service on the board provides me the experience and unique understanding of these issues needed to help guide us moving forward. I make the time to lead, unlike the other candidates in my race, who have yet to attend even regularly-scheduled monthly board meetings of FISD. It is my hope that the LGBT community will see me as a public servant, dedicated to educating children, and with a sincere interest in continued dialogue and improving our schools ever toward the goal of being a place for all students to feel safe and loved as they learn.

**PLACE 4**

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**JEFF SNOWDEN**



**Phone:** (214) 619-0692

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**Website:** www.snowden4frisco.com

**Facebook:** Jeff Snowden For Frisco

**Education:** BA Economics, Texas A&M; MBA, University of Texas at San Antonio

**Occupation:** Consulting economist specializing in infrastructure finance

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

Frisco ISD Priorities Based Budget Committee, 2016-17 Appointee

Frisco Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, 2013-2015 Chairman

Frisco Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, 2012 Vice Chairman

Frisco Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, 2011 Treasurer

Frisco Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, 2010 Member

Denton County Transportation Authority Board of Directors, 2005 – 2012

**Platform:**

Represent the tax payers who overwhelmingly opposed the TRE (Tax Ratification Election)

Aggressively pursue reduced administrative costs - apply savings to fund small class sizes and competitive teacher pay

Make best use of existing tax revenue & cash reserves on hand before asking voters for an unnecessary tax increase

Lead the implementation of \$12 million in annual cost savings and revenue enhancements recently identified by FISD's board appointed citizens committee

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Jeff Snowden.**



**PLACE 4**

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**ASANGA JAYATILAKA**



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**Website:** [www.asangafisd.com](http://www.asangafisd.com)

**Facebook:** Asanga Jayatilaka for Frisco ISD Trustee

**Education:** Bachelor of Science- Civil Engineering, University of Texas at Austin, Class of 2014

**Occupation:** Civil Engineer

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

**Platform:**

I believe that the most important issue that Fisd currently faces is maintaining and improving our students' quality of education while we navigate through these tough financial times. As our district looks to limit spending in order to meet budgetary requirements, I want to ensure that future generations of Fisd students can have the same, if not better, opportunities my peers and I had. Outside of financial imperatives, I want to better equip our students to tackle the challenges they face and take advantage of the opportunities that will present after high school by expanding the Career and Technical Education Center offerings and expanding our relationships with institutions such as Collin College and LeTourneau University.

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Asanga Jayatilaka.**





**PLACE 5**

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**DEBORAH GILLESPIE**



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**Website:** [www.debbiegillespie.com](http://www.debbiegillespie.com)

**Facebook:** Debbie Gillespie, Frisco ISD Board Trustee

**Education:** Bachelors of Science, Southwest Texas State University

**Occupation:** Community and School Volunteer

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

**Honors & Awards**

Leadership TASB Master Trustee 2014

PTA Lifetime Membership

**Frisco ISD**

Frisco ISD Board of Trustees Place 5, since 2011

Texas Association of School Boards, Director for Region 10

**PTA – PTO – 1999 to 2016**

PTA Board member and volunteer – Spears Elementary, Bright Elementary, Smith Elementary

PTO President – 3yrs.

PTO Board member and volunteer – Pioneer Heritage Middle School

Frisco ISD Council of PTA's Board member, Legislative Chair, Training Chair, Council Delegate

**Frisco Fastpacs**

Governance Committee

**Frisco ISD Bond Committees**

2002 – 2003

2005 – 2006

**Frisco High School – 2008 to 2014**

FHS Softball Booster Club

FHS Band Booster Club – Board member, volunteer coordinator, chaperone

Mom's in Touch

**National Charity League – 2006 to 2012**

Board member and volunteer, grade level advisor, 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Membership, Parliamentarian, Provisional Committee

**Young Men's Service League – 2010 to 2014**

Board member and volunteer, grade level coordinator, membership

**Frisco Family Services Center –**

Board member, pantry volunteer, various gala committees coordinator and volunteer

**Neighborhood – 2000 to Present**

Village representative and volunteer, social committee, safety committee, neighborhood watch, social events planner

**Platform:**

The continual growth in Frisco ISD is a challenge, especially as we work through shortfalls in funding. We have already spent countless hours working with the Priority Based Budget Committee and will have to make some difficult decisions in the next couple of months. Our student's and staff's needs, along with community concerns, will all be priority as we work toward a balanced budget and future long-term planning.

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**What would you, as a School Board Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that District employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?**

I honestly think that many times fear and misunderstandings come from not knowing or learning about different cultures, beliefs, opinions. I take pride in learning and asking questions so that I can make informed decisions for our students and district. I have visited other churches, community groups, clubs etc. and I rely on others as resources to understanding each and every possible situation that our students may face. FISD does already include diversity training in our professional development and I support all of it, including LGBT, 100%!

**Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure District hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?**

I believe in, and have encouraged, hiring the best candidate regardless of sex, race, religion, age or sexual orientation. Any candidate that has the experience and relevant skills needed, should be considered for any position or promotion. I have known and worked with many of our HR staff for a long time and respect their ability to make quality choices in hiring the best candidates.

**The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.**

I do not support SB6. FISD has provided safe alternatives for those that have expressed the desire to use alternate bathroom facilities. I believe that these types of decisions, as well as others, are best made at the district or campus level, not mandated by the state or federal government.

**Schools that have implemented anti-bullying policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity report fewer problems with school safety. Area districts that have implemented such policies include Dallas, Denton and Ft Worth. How would you work to address LGBT bullying in our schools?**

Frisco ISD not only has strict anti-bullying policies, but we also have ongoing anti-bullying training for staff and students. As long as incidents are reported, the situations can be taken care of appropriately. We do have a hotline for reporting and a very easy to use tab under the FISD App called "Bully Report". I am currently following anti-bullying legislation and actively supporting any guidelines that will help promote anti-bullying laws, diversity training and school safety.

**Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?**

I am first a mom, second a trustee. I have seen firsthand how bullying can hinder a child's ability to learn and grow. No child should ever have to live in fear of being bullied, teased or tormented for the way they are or what they believe. We must continue teaching tolerance and acceptance. This is my 6th year as a trustee and my experience is crucial to moving our district forward during this time of continual fast growth and funding shortfalls all while staying student centered. I have a proven record of being a vocal advocate for our students, staff and community. I am dedicated and committed to keeping this district the best place to live, learn and grow for all of our community!

**PLACE 5**

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**GRACE WANG**



**Phone:** -

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**Facebook:** [Grace4friscoisd](https://www.facebook.com/Grace4friscoisd)

**Education:** B.A in Accounting, UTD; M.A. in Management Information System, UTD

**Occupation:** Business Analyst

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

Band Booster, Fowler Middle School  
PTA Member, Riddle Elementary School  
Destination Imagination Group Leader  
Youth Counselor at Church  
Sunday School Teacher  
Bible Study Fellowship, Group Leader

**Platform:**

If I'm elected, I will be committed to working alongside the other board members. I will use my problem-solving skills to help the district to find creative solutions to the fund shortfall. I will work hard to ensure district spending priorities in hiring and keeping quality teachers, building cost-effective schools, and striving for efficiency with available funds.

The #1 variable that predicts student success is teacher. Who we hire, what we pay, how we support, and how we provide training and mentorship is crucial to ensuring the success of our students. Thus Frisco ISD implemented Professional Learning Community (PLC) last year. PLC is an ongoing school improvement process that builds a culture and an infrastructure, or a way, of working together, which results in continuous improvement. The three big ideas of PLC are learning, collaboration, and results. If I'm elected, I would like to be the board member overseeing this program, to create success benchmarks, and to evaluate its progress.

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Grace Wang.**





## VOTER GUIDE FRISCO ISD Spring, 2017

### PLACE 5

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**BRYAN PAUL POWELL**



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**Website:** [www.bryanpowell4fisd.com](http://www.bryanpowell4fisd.com)

**Facebook:** Bryan Powell

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University; Master's Degree in Business Administration - Focus on Finance & Operations, University of Texas at Dallas

**Occupation:** Lead executive and Vice President of Westwood Professional Services' Land Division

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

- Youth girls soccer coach
- Youth boys soccer coach
- Sparks Elementary Campus Improvement Committee
- Foster Parent Support
- Sparks Elementary PTA Board 2014-2015
- Lead Watch DOGS program for Sparks Elementary

**Platform:**

**New Ideas and New Leadership** - A change in leadership will bring new skill sets and ideas that is often needed in a growing organization. In 2011, Frisco ISD had a \$300 million-dollar operating budget and approximately 40,000 students. Today, Frisco ISD has a \$500 million-dollar operating budget, \$3.4 billion-dollars in debt service and approximately 56,000 students. It is projected that 20,000-30,000 more students could be added to the district in the next 8-10 years. It is imperative that the voters introduce new leadership to the school board that will bring new skills and ideas so we are equipped to navigate the challenges that come from growth and budget shortfalls while protecting students, teachers and taxpayers.

**Unique Perspective and Skill Set** - Provide a skill set as an executive leading a large organization that is not represented on the board. The more diverse the skill sets of the board members, the better equipped we are to lead the district through the challenges we face today and in the future. I have broad experience in developing solutions to complex problems, leading a large operation, finance, strategic planning, budgeting and problem solving. I will also utilize my professional background as a civil engineer to provide insight to the board as we plan for the development of new schools to accommodate growth.

**Preserving Taxpayer Dollars** - The largest state or local tax that property owners pay in Texas is their property tax. Most of the property tax you pay goes to fund the public-school system. It is imperative that we look for solutions to the budget shortfalls that do not increase the tax rate or indebtedness unnecessarily as we plan for growth. Taxpayers need to be represented on the school board and feel as though their voices are heard. With the right leadership, we can solve our financial problems without raising taxes unnecessarily on citizens.

## **BRYAN PAUL POWELL**

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**Teachers** - One of the keys to a great education system is excellent teachers and administrators. We need to continue to focus on attracting and retaining the best individuals to educate our children. Unfortunately, teachers and local administrators are paying the consequences for decisions made by those entrusted to lead the district. The only way to change your current circumstance is to make your voice heard and vote for new representation on the board of trustees. We can solve our current financial problems without hurting you if we have the right leadership that has the skill sets to solve the problems before us. I am for you and will advocate on your behalf because good teachers, along with students and parents, are what make Frisco ISD great.

**Transparency and Accountability** - Advocate for the board to be more transparent so citizens can fully understand how decisions are being made. My goal in advocating for transparency is to encourage citizens, on both sides of an issue, to get involved and to feel as though their voices are being heard and valued during the decision-making process. We also need to be accountable to the students, teachers and tax paying citizens in regards to the decisions we make and how it impacts these stakeholders.

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Bryan Paul Powell.**