



**VOTER GUIDE  
PLANO ISD  
Spring, 2017**

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

**PLACE 1**

TAMMY RICHARDS  
CARISSA PICARD

**PLACE 2**

JACK LIU  
ANGELA POWELL  
SREEDHAR "SREE" YEDAVALLI  
AMANDA JACKSON

**PLACE 3**

NANCY C. HUMPHREY  
YVETTE JACKSON  
NATHAN RYLANDER

**PLACE 6**

MARILYN HINTON  
GREG MYER  
TRISH PATTERSON

GALA North Texas has prepared information for Candidate Forums by obtaining information from candidate websites, Facebook campaign and personal pages, press releases and news articles. GALA North Texas has used its best effort to ensure the accuracy of all information. For information about this document or to report an error or request a change, contact [dawna@galanorthtexas.org](mailto:dawna@galanorthtexas.org).

**PLACE 1**

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**TAMMY RICHARDS**



**Phone:** (469) 752-8917

**Email:** tammy.richards@pisd.edu

**Website:** www.tammyrichards.org

**Facebook:** Tammy Richards for Plano School Board Place 1

**Education:** Texas A&M University, BS Industrial Engineering, summa cum laude; Harvard University, MBA

**Occupation:** Chief Executive Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star; Associate Dean and chief operating officer of the Southern Methodist University Lyle School of Engineering; Vice President of marketing and customer service for Texas Instruments' Educational Technology business

**Highlights of civic involvement:** PISD Board of Trustees, Past President of the Board; Head Start of Greater Dallas, Past President of the Board; Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Plano ISD Graduation Plan Advisory Committee; Huffman Elementary School-Based Improvement Committee; Greater Dallas Chamber Women's Business Conference; Women's Issues Council for the Greater Dallas Chamber; Executive Women's Roundtable; First Baptist Church Plano, Early Childhood School Committee; Plano Young Men's Service League; Leadership Texas, Leadership Dallas, and Leadership Plano

**Platform:**

**Vision** - I will work with the community, my fellow board members, and the administration to provide the very best educational experience for all our children in all our schools and to be a careful steward of our tax dollars.

**Support our excellent teaching staff** - Plano ISD has an excellent reputation for producing college-ready graduates. We must ensure that our teachers are well-supported inside and outside the classroom and that we remain the school district of choice for great teachers. Education research from renowned organizations like the Gates and Dell Foundations indicates that a well-supported teacher in the classroom is the best investment one can make in our children's education. Expand choices for students - Students and families appreciate choices. For many, college is the next step after high school graduation. For others, personal choice or circumstances may require that they graduate from high school with marketable job skills. Our educational system must support both. In addition, we should broaden our collaboration with our local community college to increase our dual credit offerings so that all students can graduate with at least 30 college credit hours.

**Develop educational systems to support our diverse populations** - As our student population becomes more diverse, we must ensure that our curricular and pedagogical systems support a diverse population. A diverse classroom and school environment offers richness to the experience and education of our students and will prepare them well for a global work environment.

**Ensure that our curriculum and pedagogy includes the best of time-testing teaching methodologies and embraces the best of the new technology-enabled, project-based learning** - "21st century learning" has been the recent buzz phrase, but great teachers have used these methods for years - fostering teamwork, encouraging communication skills, nurturing curiosity and discovery. We must build on our strong Plano ISD foundation to prepare our children for the competition they will face in the world market.

## **TAMMY RICHARDS**

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**Support effective partnerships** - Fostering an environment with transparent and mutually respectful communication with the community, parents, and administrators is critical to providing the best education for our children. Partnering with our city leaders in Plano and Richardson will allow us to maintain Plano ISD's sterling reputation as a model community for families and children. And we will partner with education leaders and state legislators in Austin to advocate for our community and ensure that our community's needs are well understood and served.

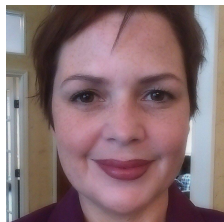
**Manage expenditures carefully** - Plano ISD received a top rating for the 14th consecutive year through the state's financial accountability rating system. This system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. Plano ISD has the second lowest tax rate of all school districts in Collin County and spends the second largest percentage of total expenditures directly on the classroom than any of its peer districts.

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Tammy Richards.**

## PLACE 1

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### CARISSA PICARD



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

**Facebook:** Carissa Picard

**Education:** Degree in Political Science from Trinity Washington University, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa; Juris Doctorate degree from Georgetown University Law Center

**Occupation:** Attorney

### Highlights of civic involvement:

I have not been active in a few years because my son was younger, was born with special needs and his father is not in the area (I'm a single parent). So my time was spent working or attending meetings, appointments and events with or for Connor. He just turned 13, however, and that has enabled me to do things while he is at home alone--this is something of a game changer

### Platform:

**Engage our families** - Ms. Picard believes it is imperative that the Board of Trustees proactively listen to our students' families. The push for school vouchers is evidence of students' unmet needs. As a result, there has to be a place for difficult conversations between the School Board and Plano ISD parents. Ms. Picard recognizes that the best solution is rarely the easiest solution. If elected as Trustee in Place One, Ms. Picard will be a voice for Plano ISD families and the issues they care about.

**Empower our teachers** - Ms. Picard believes that Plano ISD's teachers are a large part of what make our schools so great (second only to its students). Our teachers, like our parents, have valuable insights regarding the school system, curriculum and student body. Many parents dislike having to "teach to the test." Many of our teachers feel the same way. Ms. Picard is prepared to listen to our teachers and believes that more often than not, parents and teachers are on the same page--both just want what's best for our student body. Part of the difficult conversations mentioned above is including the input and feedback of teachers when evaluating budgetary and other policy matters.

**Explore our options** - Ms. Picard will not shy away from a dissenting vote if that vote is necessary to honestly and fairly represent the interests of Plano ISD parents, teachers and/or students. Ms. Picard will not assume that the solutions offered by the government are the only solutions to the problems faced by our community. If elected, Ms. Picard will actively advocate for creative problem-solving. Rigidity in policy making benefits governmental institutions because it allows for uniformity, but rigidity and uniformity may not always benefit our students. As Trustee, Ms. Picard will explore the depth and breadth of options available to the school district in policy-making, guided by the feedback of those on the receiving end of those policies: our parents, teachers and students.

**Enrich our schools** - Ms. Picard believes that an ongoing dialogue with our families and our teachers will improve the learning experience of our students. Plano ISD is one of the best school districts in the country, but it is not perfect and there should be room for exploration and experimentation if necessary. Ms. Picard wants to keep the things that are working for our schools while being open to conversations regarding areas of improvement. We can never be complacent, particularly when we are dealing with our children.

### **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 was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and many people that I love are part of the LGBT community. As a Board Member, however, I would advocate for diversity training that includes information about the LGBTQ community because I realize that not everyone is raised in an environment as diverse as the one I was raised in.

**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?**

As you are aware, I cannot assure that the Board of Trustees will do anything as I am only one person on that Board. However, I can promise that I will fight for any person who is being discriminated based upon real, or perceived/suspected, LGBTQ status. I would point to the will of the people of Plano in supporting passage of the Equal Rights Ordinance.

**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 believe that the so-called bathroom bill is an assault on the dignity and civil liberties of our children. A child, like an adult, should have the right to determine and declare who they are—even if that means gender identification. We must respect and protect the right of our children to exercise the agency necessary for gender self-determination. If a child who identifies as a gender not on their birth certificate is challenged when they enter a bathroom that coincides with their gender identification, that child will be subject to bullying, ridicule and self-doubt (and possibly self-loathing). I respect the autonomy of every child and will fight to honor that autonomy.

**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 promote and pursue inclusion of LGBT issues within existing bullying policies, again, pointing to the ERO as evidence that Plano citizens support and believe in equal treatment and protection.

That being said, I believe, as a general proposition, that bullying policies are not being promoted as aggressively as they could be. I'd like to push for regular training for educators and administrators to help them identify bullying more effectively.

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

Because I will fight to protect the right of every child in our school system to identify (and/or define) themselves without fear of persecution, ridicule or mistreatment.

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**PLACE 2**

**JACK LIU**



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**Website:** [www.jackliu4pisd.org](http://www.jackliu4pisd.org)

**Facebook:** -

**Education:** BS in Food Science, Renmin University; MA in Sociology, joint program by Peking University and China University of Political Science and Law; MA in Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Master of Computer Science, University of Texas at Arlington.

**Occupation:** Technical lead of test automation in a mortgage company

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

Arlington Mandarin Chinese School, Founding Member and Teacher  
Dallas Chinese Language School, Board Member  
Texas Chinese Association of Science and Technology, Board Member, Vice-president and President  
Red Cross of America volunteer  
Boy Scouts of America, numerous positions and committees

**Platform:**

Keep PISD in top quality, raise community awareness, promote sharing of information with parents and city residents, and promote integration among different races and ethnic groups.

**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 think the diversity is a multi-fold concept. I could be race and ethnical group, religion, citizenship, as well as sex orientation. Since most of the school kids are underage, I don't think it's necessary to talk too much about LGBT. However, I do think it's important for the teachers to have diversity training. the teachers and school staff need to know how to accommodate different situations.

**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?**

Since there is no explicit law, I think it should leave to the school and district administration to provide guidelines.

**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 think it's case by case and should be decided by the administration.

**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?**

Definitely I'm against any kind of bully against anybody. I'm not aware that PISD doesn't have anti-bully policy. If i'm elected, I'll promote such policy.

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

I don't think everybody in the LGBT community should vote for the same candidate. I'll promote PISD to provide high quality education, to promote racial integration, and not to reduce PISD budget. If people agree with my opinion, they should support me. If they don't, they will not support me.

## PLACE 2

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### ANGELA POWELL



**Phone:** 214-228-3059

**Email:** available via her website

**Website:** [www.plano4angelapowell.com](http://www.plano4angelapowell.com)

**Facebook:** ---

**Education:** Bachelor of Science at Houston Baptist University; Master of Business Administration at the University of Dallas, Graduate School of Management

**Occupation:** I have gained valuable working knowledge of the importance of accountability and student growth. I have been a substitute teacher in Sugar Land for the Fort Bend ISD. I have also taught at a Business School in Allentown, PA. And, I have taught at a community college in Bethlehem, PA.

### Highlights of civic involvement:

Barron Early Childhood School: Volunteer Chair, Grade Room Parent

Isaacs Early Childhood School: Hospitality Chair

Hickey Elementary School: Carnival Chair, Grade Lead Room Parent, Display Case Coordinator, Grade Room Parent, Sage Chair, Sponsorship Chair, Newcomer Chair

Murphy Middle School: Multicultural Coordinator

Williams High School: Mariposa Special Education Adult Transition Fair Committee Member

### Platform:

If elected, I will focus on ballot transparency. Taxpayers should be allowed to vote on separate line items on the Bond Package. It should be up to the taxpayers to decide the needs of the school district rather than the wants of the school district.

I will focus on "Taxpency" for our Plano schools. Our local school property taxes should not be recaptured into the state's public education fund.

I will also focus on the continued growth of the preschool programs for special needs students. These young, special needs children need more help to prepare for Kindergarten. I will focus on the building of a Trade School in Plano.

I envision a better bridge between high school and college for the majority of our graduating students. I will be an advocate for conservative taxpayers who want to make sure that PISD operates in an efficient and effective way. Financial accountability is important to safeguard our school district.

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



## PLACE 2

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**SREEDHAR "SREE" YEDAVALLI**



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**Facebook:** Sreedhar "Sree" Yedavalli

**Education:** ---

**Occupation:** Project Manager

### Highlights of civic involvement:

As a mentor and tutor, I encourage and foster collaborative learning and group engagement by empowering the learner to see the beauty and possibilities of the natural world all around us.

### Platform:

The key to success and moving forward involves working with the city councils of Plano, Allen and Richardson as well as community leaders and developers to ensure that the needed housing and commercial development also takes care of the influx of children that need to be educated. Working with the trustees, other regional ISDs and the University of Texas at Dallas community, the district needs to attract the best and brightest teachers and to empower these teachers to do what they do best—create that spark of curiosity, imagination and inspiration in all our children. Plano schools should be incubators of collaboration and discovery so that we can bring the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs and community leaders into the 21st century.

Here are my short-, medium- and long-term goals:

**Short-term:** Establish an ombudsman so that parents and students have a voice who can speak directly to the school board about issues in regard to district policy and present those issues to the board for consideration, along with discussion with parents and the PTA, to seek positive mutual resolutions.

**Medium-term:** I want to leverage the excellence of successful programs that already exist. How can we take the programs we have in place and use them to improve the educational experiences of students in other parts of our school district? How can we export successes from one classroom to another? And why can't we do so more often? These represent opportunities to increase the success of our students throughout the district.

**Long-term:** With the relationships the region has made with businesses and technology startups, I want to cultivate future opportunities to work with the UTD and with regional technology and innovation-oriented businesses to provide our students access to award-winning scientists, researchers and engineers who can act as mentors and role models for our children. We can learn from the relationships already made by other regional districts and enhance the ones already started by the board to date.

"I am also running for more practical reasons. Migration projections suggest that the city of Plano alone will be reaching 300,000 people by 2030, a mere 13 years from now. The city is diversifying but is rooted in a highly educated, goal-oriented family structure. The district needs to reflect the needs of the changing demographics of Plano, Allen and Richardson and be able to lead the community on what is best for the advancement of our students."

**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?**

Yes. It is contingent upon the Trustee to serve the needs of all students, regardless of race, faith, or gender identity. Education, both of children and of parents & adults, about LGBTQ issues and successes, only enhances the community at large and provides for more inclusive, more empathetic leaders for tomorrow.

**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 intend to advocate for the interpretation of the 1965 Civil Rights Act to include LGBTQ members of our community and hiring pool and current staff. There is no reason or benefit to restricting hiring on any grounds other than merit and need. The Constitution is clear that Civil Rights are for ALL PEOPLE. LGBTQ members of our society share these same rights. Any restrictions upon this group violates the intent and letter of the Civil Rights Act.

**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.**

The Bathroom Bill is a travesty brought upon by fear mongering. I cannot imagine how this law could be enforced or adjudicated. Will the person's rights of privacy be violated by an Inquisitorial Squad of students validating gender in the bathrooms? This conversation was hashed out years ago during the Civil Rights era of the 1960's and 1970's. It cannot be enforced without violating the Constitution of the United States. It is beneath the good people of Texas to consider such short-sighted legislation. The violence that has been recorded in various flavors of media clearly points to violence TOWARDS LGBTQ students by "straight" students, or against LGBTQ adults by "straight" adults. No recorded incident of sexual predation by a LGBTQ person towards a child, fellow student, or unsuspecting, unconsenting adult has been cited.

Result - fear and ignorance breeds action towards a non-issue. The bill in Austin should be thrown out, and those who proposed it schooled in the issues, concerns, and benefits of empathy and inclusivity.

**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?**

We need to add education of LGBTQ issues to the anti-bullying curriculum in place. Expand the anti-bullying program to address individual concerns, on all sides, about the LGBTQ community, and do what School Systems are designed to do best - educate our children on tolerance, empathy and inclusiveness. I'm sorry if it sounds repetitive, but the answer lies right in front of us. It takes courage, leadership, and openness to bring us together. Change is difficult - the LGBTQ community knows this better than any group in our society right now. It takes hard, sustained, conversations and exchange to lead to progress.-

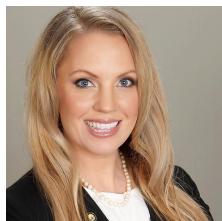
**Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?**

I am, first and foremost, and advocate for the student-teacher relationship. I believe that teachers have been getting a bad rap for the last decade or so. By and large, the teachers that I have met are open-minded, open-hearted, and advocates for success for all their students of all stripes, colors, creeds, and perspectives. As a School Board Trustee, I need to fight for those students and the professional teaching staff that guides them through curricula daily. I need the teachers prepared to advocate for the least represented of us, and help to educate all of us, towards educational and emotional developmental success. THE LGBTQ community is part of my advocacy. I want the best programs, curricula, tools and methods to work for the least served as well as the most served. I'm not sure if I'll get your support. But, regardless, I want to make sure our children get a quality education. I hope I can get your endorsement.

**PLACE 2**

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**AMANDA JACKSON**



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

**Facebook:** Amanda Jackson for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2

**Education:** A.A.S. in Applied Human Services, Austin Community College; B.A. in Liberal Arts (History and Psychology), Concordia University at Austin; M.Ed. in Counseling, University of North Texas; pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education from University of North Texas

**Occupation:** Graduate Teaching Assistant in the College of Education, University of North Texas; taught at a North Texas 5A Title 1 high school (where she was honored as Teacher of the Month); adjunct faculty member with Eastfield College where she taught ESL and GED courses; former counselor with a nonprofit family services organization and Dallas Metrocare, and has worked for AVID (Central Region), Austin Police Department, and as an independent contractor with Texas Child Protective Services

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

10+ years as a religious instructor at her church

Coaches youth sports with the Plano YMCA

Prepares meals for Hope's Door

Serves on Plano I.S.D.'s Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

Previous member of Mathews Elementary PTA Board and School Based Improvement Committee

Taught Junior Achievement

Classroom volunteer and grade-level event coordinator

Member of Mathews Elementary and Schimelpfenig Middle School PTAs

Served with other state and local leaders at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding implementation of policy changes related to students with intellectual disability

Member of local, regional, and national organizations including the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Council for the Study of Community Colleges (where she serves on the Marketing Committee), Association on Higher Education and Disability, Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas, Plano 8th Ward Relief Society, Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas, Society for Disability Studies, and Plano YMCA

**Platform:**

Serving all Plano I.S.D. students by applying data and research to policy decisions;

Advocating for programs related to better educational and post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities, and students from low socioeconomic households;

Ensuring resources are used effectively and responsibly to maximize student success;

Increasing student college and career readiness; and

Working with state policymakers to advocate for students and public education, and reduce reliance on high-stakes assessments.

**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 actually spend so much time looking at educational outcomes for students when isolating data based on demographics related to race, disability, and SES that this question already resulted in awareness that I have not read research related to outcomes for this population at the K-12 level. I have looked at employment discrimination which is related to work as a Trustee, but I will need to educate myself further on educational outcomes of students who are LGBTQ. My number one priority if elected, is to first assist the elementary schools that are low performing and fill in gaps for needed services in Special Education. Then, I can look into what diversity training, if any, is already being offered in the district and what changes should be made.

**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?**

This topic I actually conducted research on about twelve years ago, and presented my findings at a conference held in the DC area. In my study, one man's story in particular has always stayed with me as he was a public educator like myself. He explained his experience in hiding his sexual orientation for his entire teaching career partly because of the wording of the ethics code used to govern teachers. My stance then and my stance now is that no person should be denied employment based on sexual orientation. We need good teachers, staff, and administrators- that is not related to sexual orientation. To safeguard this right to employment, I would take all claims of discrimination seriously, and advocate always that our district hires based on competency, experience, and skill.

**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.**

This legislation is at the state and local government level. I do not foresee such a decision ever being made at the school board level.

**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?**

A fundamental need prior to higher learning is first security and safety according to a well accepted theory by Maslow. This is why upholding zero tolerance for bullying (including cyber bullying) is key. At the university where I teach, the administration takes many steps to promote a campus culture where students are safe and respected. A policy of zero tolerance for bullying is expected, and if students are being bullied despite policies in place then we may need to assess how to cultivate a culture of respect despite differences.

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

Practically since the day I became a mother, I have become more religious and yet less tolerant of the mistreatment of others. A large reason why I have such close relationships with many life-long friends, my family member, and my co-worker who are gay/lesbian is because we have a mutual respect and love for one another. As my best friend stated, "As different as we are, you are still my best friend after all these years because I never feel judged around you." Simply, that is because I am not judging. This is not to say I would denounce my religious beliefs and go have an alcoholic drink with her, it simply means I ask for respect of my beliefs at the same time I offer that same respect for other peoples' beliefs and experiences. Members of the LGBTQ community should know a vote for me is a vote for all the above responses. I will safeguard students the way I wanted others to safeguard my niece when she was in school. I will make sure hiring is based on who can do the job effectively. I will foster community relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.

## **PLACE 3**

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**NANCY HUMPHREY**



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**Website:** [www.nancyhumphrey.org](http://www.nancyhumphrey.org)

**Facebook:** Nancy Humphrey - PISD Board of Trustees

**Education:** University of North Texas, Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Accounting

**Occupation:** Accountant

### **Highlights of civic involvement:**

**PISD** - Trustee, Place 3, May 2010 – Current; Current Vice President; previously served as Board President, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016; Chairman of the Superintendent National Search Subcommittee (2011 & 2015); Member of Legislative Subcommittee; Chairman of the Audit Committee; Member of 9 - 12 Academies Subcommittee; Liaison to Plano Council of PTAs; Liaison to City of Richardson; Served as Region 10 delegate at the TASB Legislative Advisory Committee (2011, 2013, 2015); Speaker at National School Boards Association Conference 2013; Speaker on Leadership Dallas panel of area board members on Education Day 2012; Received Extended Service Award, Texas Congress of PTAs in 2012; Received Honorary Life Membership, Texas Congress of PTAs in 2006

Executive Board, Circle Ten Council, Boy Scouts of America

Troop Committee, Troop 1776, Boy Scouts of America Troop

Plano Rotary Club (board member 2011-2012); Chair of Williams HS Leadership Academy committee

Vice President of Hendrick Scholarship Foundation

Leadership TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) Class of 2015

Leadership Plano, Class 30

Docent at Heritage Farmstead Museum (8 years)

Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, member

Bentwood Trail Presbyterian Church, Treasurer (7 years)

Bentwood Trail Presbyterian Church, member Administration/Finance Committee (11 Years)

Austin St. Centre Volunteer

Member, Golden Corridor Republican Women

Operation Kindness Silent Auction volunteer

SPCA Fur Ball Fundraising Gala, charter member of steering committee

### **Platform:**

Future Industries 9 – 12 Academy to provide coursework and certificates for high skill/high demand occupations

Full Day Pre-K for students in need and advance the implementation of an Early Childhood Academy as demand deems.

## **NANCY HUMPHREY**

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Continued focus on eliminating the achievement gap through focused learner supports, recognizing the growth in demographic diversity in our community.

Full-scale implementation of the Adult Transition Center for our adult students with special needs utilizing Project Search.

Nancy is on the Board Legislative Subcommittee and is an advocate for Plano ISD and the community, providing:

- Advocacy on behalf of local public education with our state legislators

- Advocacy for our taxpayers in the form of communication about transparency in taxation and property tax relief by restructuring school finance

- Testimony before the Texas Senate Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief to offer solutions for school finance reform. Nancy's testimony can be viewed [here](#)

I believe the best solution to providing property tax relief for our taxpayers is to reform the system of school finance. Additionally, there needs to be transparency in taxation; our citizens need to know that 20% does not stay local, as well as know how their taxes are being spent.”

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Nancy Humphrey.**



**VOTER GUIDE  
PLANO ISD  
Spring, 2017**

**PLACE 3**

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**YVETTE JACKSON**

**Phone:** 214-563-5786

**Email:** -

**Website:** -

**Facebook:** -

**Background:**

**Education:** -

**Occupation:** -

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

**Candidate Yvette Jackson did not have a web presence that could be found and there was no information regarding any forums she may have attended.**

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Tammy Richards.**

**PLACE 3**

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**NATHAN RYLANDER**



**Phone:** 972-955-1067

**Email:** nathanrylander@yahoo.com

**Website:** www.nathanrylander.org

**Facebook:** Rylander4PISD

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineer, LeTourneau University

**Occupation:** Real Estate Broker at Transwestern

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

I served as an active-duty US Marine for 8 years, and continue to serve in the Marine Reserve. I volunteer in my daughters' elementary school, and assist with coaching one of the youth soccer teams

**Platform:**

**Fiscal Responsibility** - There are three primary issues that I would like to address on the school board. The first is the district's debt. In May 2016, Plano passed a \$481m bond. Most of that was fairly necessary, but \$68m were earmarked for a 1500 seat performing arts center. A number of other ISDs had built similar facilities, all for less than \$20m. Why does Plano ISD need to spend \$48m more than other districts? At a minimum, the citizens of Plano should have been given the option to vote for (or against) the art center individually, rather than lumped in with the projects that everyone agreed upon.

**Transparency** - The second issue is that the district and the board must be more responsive to the people. They must share more information, collect more input, and consider all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students, homeowners, etc.) when making decisions that affect their lives. I want to hear from all stakeholders. I promise to be your voice on the board.

**District Of Innovation** - The third issue is the new designation as a "district of innovation." While a good thing in principle, that provides more local control, it exempts PISD from certain state education laws and puts a lot more responsibility on the board to "govern" the ISD, while the administration may resist the attempts to be governed.

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Nathan Rylander.**



**PLACE 6**

**MARILYN HINTON**



**Phone:** 469-752-8382

**Email:** marilyn.hinton@pisd.edu

**Website:** www.marilynhintonforpisd.com

**Facebook:** ---

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, Fisk University; Masters of Education, Howard University

**Occupation:** Dallas Juvenile Detention Center, evaluating and testing some of the city's most troubled youth; previously a teacher in the Plano Head Start Program

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

Member, Plano ISD School Board  
Member, Parker Women's Club  
Member, Plano Metro Rotary, Paul Harris Scholar  
Board member, Samaritan Inn (county homeless shelter)  
Member, Jack and Jill, Inc. and Associates  
Graduate, Leadership Plano, Class 27  
Mentored five students in Plano ISD last year

**Platform:**

**Success through Relationships** - The Plano Independent School District has won numerous awards and continues to flourish in almost every area. We are now fine-tuning our progress while constantly searching for the most effective use of our tax dollars. We examine policies from other school districts, we research programs and projects, and we continue to mold policies to make a model most appropriate for our students. Our success has been largely due to the great working relationships among the board, staff, parents and the entire Plano community.

**My Top Priorities** - My top priorities for the district are: (1) To make Plano ISD one of the top districts in the country (2) To make our children and staff feel safe in the schools (3) To provide the financial resources to support our teachers and principals (4) To continue to move toward more character development training for the students to prepare to become leaders with integrity, collaboration skills, responsibility, and gratitude (5) To promote policies to instill a greater sense of community service within our schools in order for the students to become more involved in the service, cultural, civic and business areas in the city of Plano

**An Honor to Serve** - I have been on the School Board for eight years. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve the residents of the Plano ISD community. While we are currently working on closing the gap in the preschool years as well as increasing our vocational programs, there are still some areas that could use some attention.

**A Vision for the Coming Years** - In the coming years, I would like to see: (1) Better college and vocational counseling services for our students (2) Our plano graduates giving back more as alumni through the Plano Education Foundation (3) More classes in environmental studies, where we must teach our children to take care of the earth

**Taxparency** - "Taxparency" is a word used by the PISD board to mean what has the state done with the Robin Hood funds? Please join us in asking our legislators to be more transparent with what happens to these funds.

**GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Marilyn Hinton.**

**PLACE 6**

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**GREG MYER**



**Phone:** 972-533-5556

**Email:** gregmyerforplano@gmail.com

**Website:** www.voteGregMyer.com

**Facebook:** Greg Myer for Plano ISD Board of Trustees

**Education:** University of Missouri – Kansas City (Bachelor's in Psychology; University of Missouri – Columbia (Master's in Healthcare Administration).

**Occupation:** Director of Deployment for a software company in the real estate industry

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

Plano ISD's Career and Technical Education Committee  
Plano ISD's Key Communicator Program  
Plano Youth Leadership Board (including a year as President)  
Member of PTA organizations of Saigling Elementary, Haggard Middle, Vines High and Plano Senior High.  
Collin County Parks Foundation Board  
City of Plano Library Board (including one year as Board Chairman)  
Graduate of Leadership Plano (Class XXIII)  
Leadership Plano Board of Directors (including one year as Finance Chair)  
100 Men Who Give a Damn, Dallas

**Platform:**

Teachers are the lifeblood of all schools. It is critical for the Plano ISD Board of Trustees to establish policies that support teachers by offering them the most training opportunities to increase their personal skill-sets, and to offer the best compensation and incentives in the world.

Increasing opportunities for students with special needs. By helping all students, including those with special needs, improve their life and job skills, we all benefit from a better trained workforce which is less dependent on government services.

Doing more for students who do not intend to attend a traditional four-year college. Jobs in electrical, carpentry, plumbing, welding and many other skilled trades provide good careers and cannot be off-shored.

Raising the achievement of all of Plano ISD's students by finding ways to offer more pre-kindergarten programs, including reading and foreign language, in order to provide them a stronger start to their learning careers.

Utilizing strong relationships with elected officials in Austin and Washington D.C. to ensure the best interests of Plano ISD's students, parents and community are represented in all education legislation coming from the Texas Legislature and the U.S Congress.

**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 would attend any Diversity training offered by PISD. This training should include issues and supportive commentary related to the LGBT community. I am honored to have many friends in this community and I agree that it should be a priority to get this training to all PISD Staff and Trustees.

**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?**

PISD hiring, firing, promotions and firing should be based on merit alone. None of these decisions should be impacted by a person's skin color or sexual orientation, and I am willing to put that in PISD Policy.

**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 have a daughter in PISD, and I have talked to dozens of PISD parents about this issue. While I have concerns about some of the language in SB6, I do believe that this is a public safety issue for girls in public school bathrooms and locker rooms. Therefore, I am in favor of people using the bathroom and locker room that matches their "biological sex".

**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?**

PISD needs to have programs on anti-bullying that include sexual orientation and gender identity for students and staff. If GALA has other suggestions on how to reduce bullying, I am open to hearing and discussing these.

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

I am a strong supporter of LGBT rights. I have many friends in this community and hope to garner the support of those in this community.

**PLACE 6**

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**TRISH PATTERSON**



**Phone:** 214-927-6338

**Email:** trishpattersonforpisd@gmail.com

**Website:** www.trishpattersonforpisd.com

**Facebook:** Trish Patterson for PISD School Board

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Business Management & Masters in Business Administration, University of Phoenix

**Occupation:** Substitute teacher for PISD; Adjunct professor for Richland College.

**Highlights of civic involvement:**

President of Plano Community Forum, a 501c3 that gives scholarships to PISD students

Co-Chair and Organizer of Plano's Martin Luther King Day Steering Committee

Active Member of Threaded – a group of ministers and a few lay people who create opportunities for people of different race, cultures and ethnicity to come to the table and have Courageous Conversations about their differences. The idea is we are building relationships through understanding each other

Junior League of Collin County

**Platform:**

Ensure advanced placement programs are representative of Plano's diverse community.

Encourage parent involvement

Targeted teacher recruitment and retention

Build Stronger Relationships With Collin College

My Values - God and Family comes first; Integrity matters; Service above self; Honesty is a given; and Humility is a gift.

**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?**

As a trustee hopeful, I will make every effort to educate and understand about all our diverse communities. It is my thought that we, the district, the teaching staff have to meet a student where they are and in order to do that it is incredibly important that we are equipped so we can effectively meet the needs of our community.

**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?**

My stance has and always will be that all individuals are treated fairly and with respect. I will fight and advocate that our district hires and recruit those individuals who are qualified no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**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 am really not understanding why this has any bearing on educating our students, which should be the focus. I believe that a person should have the choice to use the restroom of their choice.

**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?**

My time spent working as a teacher at the alternative school, I learned about a technique called the Restorative Circle. This is basically a forward way for the students to resolve conflict and understand their difference in the presence of an adult staff member. In this alternative school environment this technique has really changed the mindset of the students. It has been proven a great conflict resolution tool. So I would like to be a driving force to push this as an initiative district wide.

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

I am asking for your vote on May 6 because I have 3 facets that I would bring with me in my role as a trustee. The first is I have held leadership roles with the Plano Community Forum and MLK Steering Committee. It is through those roles I have learned how to impact positive change. I am an educator in and out of the district. In this role I have seen first hand inside the walls of the schools and have been able to interact with students and staff. Lastly and most importantly, I am an involved mother of students who have gone through the district. A child in the athletics program, one in the special education program, and another in the advanced placement program. I have seen the great programs PISD offers, but I also see how we can make those programs even better. So, with your support I will have the opportunity to drive positive change in our district that will benefit all students and staff.