

Houston GPS Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Bridget Butler Wade

Bridget was born in Houston. She attended Briargrove Elementary, Paul Revere Middle School, Wisdom (formerly Robert E. Lee) and Episcopal High Schools. Bridget then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Oklahoma.

Bridget's leadership involvement in education is longstanding, including President of Briargrove Elementary PTO, Carnival Chair and Campus New Construction Committee. She also sat on the Episcopal High School Board of Trustees, Alumni Council and Chaired the Auction and Annual Fund. Bridget also has served as volunteer for Yellowstone Academy and Have Haven.

Bridget's deep appreciation for our city has led her to numerous leadership positions on several Boards and Leadership Committees in Houston. In addition to serving as Briargrove Elementary PTO President, she led a special task force for Methodist Hospital. Bridget also chaired the Advisory Board for The Blaffer Museum of Art at The University of Houston and the National Advisory Board for The Blanton Museum at The University of Texas. Bridget is currently serving as the HISD District 7 Trustee, is a member of the University of Houston Board of Visitors, The First Horizon advisory board the HISD Foundation board and Served on the HISD Community Advisory Committee.

Bridget has been married to Patrick Wade for 34 years and together they have 3 adult children, a daughter-in-law and three grandsons. She and Patrick are founding members of The Church of the Apostles.

3. I am running again for my position because there is so much more work to do for HISD students. During my term the State takeover happened and cut my service short. I learned so much during that time and feel I have so much to offer in experience and gained knowledge. Students in Houston deserve our full attention to compete in this world, this city and to increase the God given agency that they all possess, I feel very equipped to help the board navigate the goals and standards needed to further our kids.

4. The board can influence student outcomes and achievement by setting appropriate goals. Some goals are influenced by the state standards, and some are influenced by the current data, board and community input. The board can challenge the budget to make sure that the dollars spent are in line with improving student outcomes and the board can hold the superintendent accountable for the how, when and who the results positively impact.

Governance & Leadership:

5. The School Board is responsible for setting goals, vision and values. The board is responsible to govern and set board policy, hire a superintendent and hold him or her accountable and approve the budget. The elected board also engages the community in the process of goal setting, vision and values to influence the priorities of the stakeholders.

6. In the budget process, the board should be making sure the budget aligns with goals and is transparent.

7. There are rules of decorum and effective ways to communicate disagreements, the board also has a required board/superintendent monitoring process that is used to encourage healthy discussion and guide healthy discussion.

8. I read the news and published education articles and listen to podcasts.

9. As a sidelined trustee I have stayed engaged however it is possible and appropriate. I have served on the Bond committee, I am currently serving on the HISD Foundation board, I continue to connect with board members to discuss the data, I have been speaking to the community and business leaders to keep the conversation open and inform the business community on the importance of HISD. When the transition happens, I hope to be on the first roll on if I were to be re-elected. It will be very important for the elected board to work with the appointed board and appointed superintendent to stay focused on the students.

Community Engagement:

10. Same as above

11. While I was a sitting Trustee, I would visit my local schools if invited, speak to groups asking for my time, meet with community members for coffee, and be available for calls. It is very important to hear others, but to also inform the community of our board guardrails.

12. I am open to hearing the views of others, but I also can stand back and use reason to guide my decisions. The students are the customer, and we need to consider the impacts that adults decisions can make on their success or failures.

13. HISD should prioritize growth, performance and achievement. These are measurable and actionable.

14. Disparities in outcomes are best addressed by asking good questions of the administration on what is working in other populations that can be used to improve outcomes for others.

15. The board has a big responsibility to make sure that the impressive gains hold and continue to stay on track. The board can use goal setting to monitor and critique.

Policy & Values:

- a. Yes
- b. Yes
- c. Yes
- d. Entire body – this is a whole HISD mission- ALL STUDENTS
- e. Yes

Statements of Belief

- a. 4
- b. 4
- c. 4
- d. 4
- e. 4
- f. 4
- g. 4
- h. 4