

Application for the Vacant Place 7 Trustee Position

The CISD Board of Trustees is accepting applications for the possible appointment of an individual to fill the vacant Place 7 Trustee position from Monday, October 24 at 8 a.m. until Tuesday, November 1 at 5 p.m. Anyone interested in applying for a potential appointment to the open seat must meet the requirements listed below and in [District Policy BBA \(LEGAL\)](#), and will be required to resign from any conflicting commitments, including, but not limited to, other district committees and nonprofits, PTOs, or booster clubs.

According to Texas law, CISD Trustees may either (1) call a special election to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, (2) appoint a replacement for the Place 7 Trustee position through the May 6, 2023 election or (3) allow the position to remain vacant until the May 6, 2023, election. In any event, the unexpired term for CISD Trustee Place 7 will be on the May 6, 2023, ballot to fill the remainder of the term. Place 7 will then be up for election for its full three-year term during the May 4, 2024 election.

Applicants must meet the Board of Trustees qualifications, which generally are:

- A U.S. Citizen
- 18-years-old at the start date of the Term of Service
- A resident of the district for 6 months before the application deadline
- A resident of the state of Texas for 12 months before the application deadline
- Be registered to vote

Email *

chaka2006@gmail.com

Applicant's First and Last Name *

Kevin Chaka

Address *

830 Greenway Dr

City *

Coppell

Zip Code *

75019

Phone Number *

9724154100

Do you have children currently enrolled in Coppell ISD? *

Yes

No

If yes, please list your child's schools/ and grades below: *

Lakeside, 2nd Grade

Untitled Section

Do you have children who have graduated from Coppell ISD? *

Yes

No

Why would you like to be part of the CISD Board of Trustees? *

My number one concern is that we have the strongest Board possible in Coppell ISD, and that may or may not include me. If given the choice to personally be on the Board or to choose another candidate that I believe is a stronger candidate, I would gladly choose the other candidate because that is what would be best for Coppell ISD. I say that not because I am not interested, but rather because if I serve it is because I was chosen or elected as the best person to be on the Board in order to help Coppell ISD continue to be a great district. My desire to serve comes from more of a sense of duty rather than a desire for power or to put something on the resume. I can pinpoint with near perfect precision the moment that a teacher in Coppell ISD at Lakeside Elementary took me from a bit of a struggling student that just moved back to the district (and could have easily floundered) to being on the right track that ultimately allowed me to excel in math, study engineering at Texas A&M and then eventually get my MBA at Harvard. I owe a great deal to Coppell ISD, and I would proudly serve on the Board if I am the right person.

What is your understanding of the role of School Board Trustee? *

My understanding of the Board is that it is the Board's responsibility to set the goals and policies of Coppell ISD and evaluate the outcomes, hire and evaluate the Superintendent, adopt the budget and tax rate, engage with the community, and in the very near-term determine if a bond could make sense, and if so, what that would look like based on the feedback from the community and work done by the steering committee. The role of the Board is not to be focused on the day-to-day operational decisions of the district as that falls under the Superintendent.

Briefly describe your education background and qualifications. *

I received a BS in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. I have continually sought out opportunities to learn more about public education. While at Harvard, I completed a course called Entrepreneurship in Education Reform, which had several very interesting guest speakers attend that spoke about the challenges in public education. I made it to the final round interviews for the Broad Residency, which plugs business executives into high level roles in education, but ultimately opted out when it became apparent that most of the opportunities were in charter schools (I wanted to be in a public district). I was a Leadership ISD Fellow focused on learning more about the inner workings on public school districts, including the challenges, and developing a network of like-minded individuals. I was a participant in Leadership ISD's first ever Ready To Lead Governance Academy, focused on developing the skills and understanding needed to be a better Board member. I am continually seeking out opportunities to learn more so that I can one day have a positive impact on public education.

If you are currently employed, briefly describe your position. *

I am currently the Vice President of Finance and Data Analytics at a Real Estate Development company named Build To Stay. Our company focuses on developing communities of short-term rentals (think AirBNB/VRBO) in premier vacation destinations. In my role, I lead all data analytics that help drive key decisions about where to pursue developments, how much revenue we think they will generate, and identifying key features to improve performance. My professional background has primarily been in finance, operations, and data analytics in a variety of roles and settings (from corporate jobs to investment banking).

Briefly describe your volunteer experience/involvement in CISD. *

2020-Current Parent of Lakeside Student (Currently 2nd Grade)

2021-2022 DEIC

2021-2022 DEIC Calendar Subcommittee

2022-2023 DEIC Co-Chair

2022-2023 CBAS Advisory Group

2022 iLead I Participant

2022 Participated in Bond activities (Futures Conference, Surveys, Facility Tour)

What strengths do you bring to this position? *

I believe my professional experiences in finance, operations, and data analytics will allow me to bring a varied and very applicable set of skills to the role. As a numbers person, I have always felt it was important to try to understand what the numbers or data is telling us. At the same time, I know you cannot blindly make decisions based only on numbers or data. It is critical to humanize data and tie it back to the feedback you are hearing from the community. In addition to my professional experiences, I think my personal experiences as a student in Coppell ISD and possibly more importantly as a student outside of Coppell ISD have really shaped my perspectives on public education and how critical it is. I genuinely believe that our country needs the strongest possible public education system in order to ensure we have an educated population, and I believe that Coppell ISD serves as a model of excellence. I believe one day that I have the skills needed to possibly help translate the success of Coppell ISD in other districts. I also believe I have the temperament that could make me a good Board member. I am a pretty levelheaded and steady person that has the ability to listen to all sides of an issue, think through the ramifications of a particular solution, and make decisions based on reason and logic rather than emotion. I also believe it is critical to be collaborate with the Board. This does not mean that we could not disagree, which I actually do think is important as a body to not have group think, but rather I view it as it is important that once a decision is made as a group that there is alignment and support. Lastly, I think it is critical that the Board be apolitical, and I bring no political agenda to the table.

What is your vision for education in our community? *

"For me, success is not about the wins and losses. It's about helping these young fellas be the best versions of themselves on and off the field." - Ted Lasso

I think that quote is not far off from my vision. My vision is that every student that comes through Coppell ISD receives the best education they can get, and that they realize success looks different for everybody. Some will become academic powerhouses while others will pursue their passions in art, digital media, band, athletics or many other areas. If we can empower them to pursue fearlessly their own passions, then we will be setting them up for success in life. As a district, in order to do this, we need to continue to innovate and put ourselves in a position to attract the best educators and keep our kids (and their parents) excited about them CHOOSING to attend Coppell ISD. We need to be a beacon of light that other public school districts will want to emulate. I just went on a tour of Coppell High School tour as part of my classes 20 year reunion, and I was amazed at the opportunities kids have these days that we didn't have 20 years ago. Coppell ISD needs to continue to build on the progress they have made over really its entire history.

What do you see as the most significant challenge facing CISD? *

Retention. Retention for both educators and students. I am specifically referring to retention in the medium to long term and not necessarily driven by near-term challenges like COVID. While I was attending Coppell ISD as a kid, that was just what you do (and largely the reason parents probably moved into the district in the first place). We weren't facing as strong of a competitive threat from alternative options such as charter schools (private schools have always been financially inaccessible to a lot of people). People now have more choices, and they can and will leave for a variety of reasons, but it is critical to keep as many kids as possible in the district to allow Coppell ISD to be the strongest it can be. One of the keys to keeping kids in the district will be keeping high quality educators. There is currently a large pocket of the district that has very deep experience, which is great, but it is going to be a challenge once that pocket starts to retire. Replacing those educators with the right people now (and keeping them) will be critical. We have to maintain a very high-quality staff of educators in order to keep our kids. It is a vicious cycle where if more kids walk, the money goes with them, it becomes harder to recruit and retain high quality educators.

School Board Trustees spend an average of 12-15 hours per month executing their duties, with some months requiring substantially more. Are you prepared to make this time commitment? *

Yes

No

Briefly describe why you believe you have sufficient time to devote to this position: *

I do not work a typical 8-5 office job, and I have a lot of flexibility throughout my day. I have experience working in very demanding professions (i.e., investment banking) so I have the ability to go well above the hours that are typically viewed as a work week. I do not have concerns about the hours required for this role.

Do you or your spouse have any material interest in, or are either of you or your immediate family members employed by CISD or any company that does business with or receives funds from CISD? If yes, please describe. If no, please type no. *

No

Please provide three references. Please share the name, email address, phone number and your relationship to the reference below. *

Ryan Nelson, ryan@sweetwatercompanies.com, 602-751-9068, business partner

Grant McClure, grant@brightleafholdings.com, 512-590-9014, former colleague and fellow Leadership ISD fellow

Holly Chaka, hchaka07@gmail.com, 214-500-0654, wife (nobody knows me better!)

I understand that this position is only until the May 6, 2023 election. The unexpired term for CISD Trustee Place 7 will be on the May 6, 2023 ballot to fill the remainder of the term. The regular three-year Place 7 term will also be on the May 4, 2024 Ballot. *

I understand.

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT I hereby certify that the foregoing and any attached statements are true, accurate and complete. I agree that any misstatement, misrepresentation, or omission of a fact may result in my disqualification for appointment. Typing my full name below serves as my signature *

Kevin Craig Chaka

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