

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 *

arwallace@gmail.com

Applicant's First and Last Name *

Ashley Wallace

Address *

545 Waterview Drive

City *

Coppell

Zip Code *

75019

Phone Number *

214-213-4319

Do you have children currently enrolled in Coppell ISD? *

Yes

No

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

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? *

To date, I have contributed to/ influenced the Board's work through serving on committees. This vacancy has presented me the opportunity to volunteer to offer my perspective to the Board directly and add even more value, while filling a short-term but important gap for the Board.

Since moving to Coppell in the Summer of 2015 (mostly for Coppell ISD), learning about the public education system, Coppell ISD, and the Board has become a hobby/ passion of mine. This passion stemmed from my desire (1) to understand the decisions that have resulted in Coppell ISD being and remaining highly rated and respected in DFW and then (2) to do my part to contribute to its continued success for the benefit of our future - the children. As a result, I have attended Board meetings in person (mostly in 2016 and 2017 prior to kids) and online and have actively participated in four committees (beginning with Bond Oversight Committee in 2016 for the full term).

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to leverage my knowledge and inquisitive nature to (1) positively impact local public education over the next six month and (2) learn more about public education firsthand, so I can be a better partner to public education beyond May 2023.

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

The Board advocates for students, their district, and public schools. As a part of that, the Board operates as a non-partisan elected body that works with other elected officials in its duties.

At high-level, the Board oversees "the management of the district and ensure[s] that the superintendent implements and monitors plans, procedures, programs, and systems to achieve appropriate, clearly defined, and desired results in the major areas of district operations". On this topic, the superintendent is hired and evaluated by the Trustees.

In the next six months, one of their top "Discretionary Powers and Duties" will be calling for a possible bond election on the May 2023 ballot - taking into consideration the proposal by the 2023 Bond Committee. Beyond the above, I also appreciate there are laws/ regulations governing what the Board can and cannot do or say. For now, I have read the "Coppell ISD Board Operating Procedures" to begin to comprehend those topics. Further, I am prepared to commit the time to reading and/or take training on whatever I need to comply with the requirements of the role.

Finally, the Board's powers and duties are clearly outlined in the "Board Legal Status: Powers and Duties", which I have read.

Briefly describe your education background and qualifications. *

I attended Texas A&M University (College Station) and earned my Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and my Master of Science in Management Information Systems. Beyond that, I am a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Information Systems Auditor. Consequently, I have a good grasp of accounting, information technology (IT) - both operations and expenses, and IT security (a growing concern for all organizations, including public schools - given their extensive amount of student data and their budget limitations).

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

I am currently a member of the IT Security department at Caliber Home Loans/ Newrez - in the Coppell office.

Briefly describe your volunteer experience/involvement in CISD. *

Volunteer Experience: (1) Bond Oversight Committee, Member (September 2016 - April 2021); (2) Strategy Audit Teams, Member of Redefining Success (April 2018 - May 2018); (3) Long Range Facilities Planning Committee, Member (October 2019 - April 2020); (4) CISD 2023 Board Committee, Member (August 2022 - Present). I have been an engaged member of these committees with consistent attendance, attentive questions, and thoughtful feedback, which has resulted in me being nominated for subsequent committees.
Involvement: iLead Class of 2016-2017

What strengths do you bring to this position? *

1. Although my knowledge about Coppell ISD compared to any current Board member's is limited, I have learned a lot from attending and listening to Board's meetings and more importantly active involvement in four committees. I am confident I know more than most community members or parents about school finance (including taxes and bonds) and Board's scope and limitations. I believe this means I have the potential to get up to speed and add value faster than most other applicants, which will be essential during this short term.
2. As noted in my education response, I have formal training and/or work experience in accounting, IT, and IT Security, which I can bring to discussions and votes on related topics.
3. I will be engaged and ask thoughtful, productive questions. (I have demonstrated this as a member of past and current committees, where I have received positive verbal feedback and subsequent committee nominations.)
4. If chosen, I do not plan to run for the position (or any other) in May, so my time will not be split between this commitment and campaigning for the May 2023 election.
5. Along those lines, appointing me would not grant anyone the incumbent's advantage, leaving the voters to choose whomever they feel is appropriate for the following year independent of this decision.

What is your vision for education in our community? *

- Quality public education
- Taught by teachers we value
- With a solid foundation on the core subject
- While considering the whole child - with the goal of producing well rounded, emotionally equipped young adults

Overall, Coppell's four main values align with mine for the CISD, even more so given that I contributed to the discussions and research around "Redefining Success" in 2018, as committee member.

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

In the next six month, the most significant challenge that I am aware of will be calling for bonds to go for voter approval. There are two items that make this more challenging than in the past: (1) public opinion (based on the last close vote in 2016) and (2) the change in state law since the last bond (which now requires "general" and "special" purposes to be voted on separately). I believe the last bond was only intended to get the district through five years, so it is undoubtedly time for at least one bond (given each school's maintenance needed - at minimum), but the questions of for what, for how much, and how to best communicate it to the community remain.

These bonds could also help with another challenge, teacher recruitment and retention. I realize bond dollars cannot go to teacher salaries, but the bonds can impact educational spaces, amenities, and enhance teachers' benefits (such possibly offering them free Pre-K) that teachers might feel positively impacts their effectiveness and/or increases their job satisfaction.

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 am willing to pause other commitments through May 2023 to ensure I give this however much time it needs; public education is a top priority for me. I have the support of my husband and mother-in-law to help me with my two children, ages 4 and 2.

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. *

1. Tracy Fisher, antraasa@gmail.com, 972-983-4843, Former Place 7 Board of Trustee - who observed my prior and current involvement in CISD and can attest to my level of engagement and comprehension plus my grasp of the Board's role
2. Michael Britton, mbritton@udallas.edu, 972-765-0713, Chief Information Security Officer - who is my former employer
3. Pastor Ernie Hinojosa, pastorenie@gmail.com, 214-907-7805, Rejoice Lutheran Church Pastor - where I previously volunteered on the Finance Committee

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 *

Ashley Regan Wallace

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