



EANES ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

VOTER GUIDE MAY 2026 LOCAL ELECTION

Eanes for Everyone is proud to present our 2026 Eanes ISD Board of Trustees Candidate Voter Guide.

In this election three seats are on the ballot. We thank the candidates, each of whom welcomed the opportunity to answer six questions from our community. We present the candidates' answers in order to help voters make an informed decision.

Trigger Warning: Some answers contain disparaging or harmful statements about children, survivors of violence, Christians, the LGBTQIA+ community, and Republicans. Out of respect for our readers, we have opted to replace or redact any answers that we have determined to be inappropriate for widespread community publication. Please email info@eanes4everyone.org if you wish to see the full answers.

We encourage our readers to do their own due diligence as candidate claims have not been independently verified. To aid in your decision making, the last page of Voter Guide contains candidate information and voting details. We also encourage you to seek out other candidate voter guides and candidate forums.

PLACE 1



**Kate
Ivers**



**Afshan
Khan**

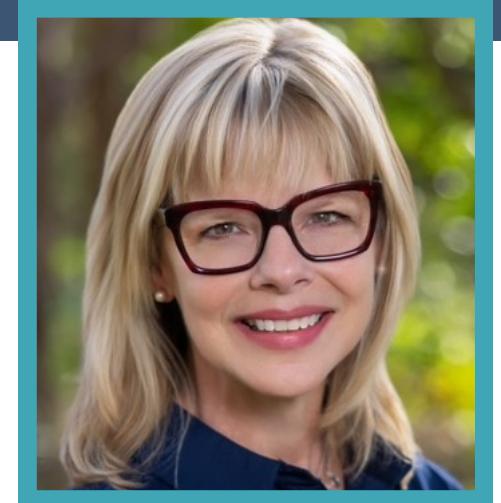


**Robert
Morrow**

PLACE 2



**Jennifer
Blackman**



**Laura
Clark**

PLACE 3



**Diane
Hern**



**Swasti
Apte**

Early Voting: April 20 - April 28, 2026

Election Day: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Eanes for Everyone is a parent-led community organization (non-profit 501(c)3) independent of Eanes ISD. As such, our organization does not endorse candidates. Our goal with this Voter Guide is to inform the voting public.

eanes4everyone.org

Q1

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE DISTRICT AND WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO RUN NOW?



Kate Ivers
Place 1

I am a parent of two Eanes students. We moved here for Eanes Excellence. Like so many, I care deeply about protecting and preserving that quality.

I am running for the board because our district is at a critical inflection point. Declining enrollment is creating budget pressures, student needs are evolving due to technology and societal changes, and decision-making is becoming more complex. This moment demands a board with diverse skills and practical expertise.

As a practicing attorney and entrepreneur with more than 20 years of experience, I have helped organizations make effective, fair, transparent, and accountable decisions. Our board would benefit from this legal perspective.

For example, public-private partnerships can serve as a potential revenue source. They offer meaningful opportunities when approached thoughtfully. The WACC experience highlights how important it is to get the details right from the start. We must approach these opportunities constructively and negotiate agreements that deliver value while safeguarding the district's interests. We must also operate within Texas law. That requires clear legal expertise, a perspective I am ready to bring to the team.



Afshan Khan
Place 1

I've been part of this school district for over 12 years as a parent, and I currently have a Senior at Westlake High School and a fourth grader at Bridge Point Elementary. Professionally, I'm an adult and child psychiatrist in Westlake, where I've spent the past decade caring for many children and families from our community.

This district has provided my children with an excellent education and a strong support system, and that experience—both as a parent and a physician—has given me a deep understanding of the needs of our students.

I decided to run because I want to give back and serve the community that has given so much to my family.



Robert Morrow
Place 1

I have lived in the Eanes School District for 31 years and I am concerned that Donald Trump [perpetrates violence against children] with Jeffrey Epstein and I want to educate the Eanes students on this. Also, I am running against Jesus Christ who I believe is a complete and total fraud. Students need to know that Christians think a [perpetrator of violence against children] should be president of the USA.

Q1

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE DISTRICT AND WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO RUN NOW?



Jennifer Blackman
Place 2

In July 2023, I moved from central Austin to Westlake, specifically for the renowned Eanes district, coinciding with my daughter entering 1st grade. Upon arrival, I sought out ways to plug into and give back to this special community, such as volunteering in the BPE library and chairing BPE's Teacher Fund Campaign two years in a row. In 2024 I was appointed by BPE Principal Sheri Bryant to BPE's Campus Leadership Team and the District Leadership Team where I currently serve. In 2025, I was elected to the Board of Directors of Eanes Education Foundation and the Westlake Chamber of Commerce. These opportunities have broadened my relationships with educators, parents, and students across the community and expanded my understanding of the dynamics and challenges facing this district. In sum: Eanes has a legacy of excellence that must be preserved, sustainably. My daughter is now in 3rd grade, and we want the best possible educational opportunities for her as enjoyed by previous generations. With 3 board seats up for election, a newly installed superintendent, and a chance for a fresh start at the highest Admin level, the time to go all in for Eanes and run for school board is now.



Laura Clark
Place 2

I am a six-year member of the Eanes ISD board and among the most experienced members. I'm a mom of two kids who went through every level of Eanes ISD. I've walked those halls alongside my kids and I understand this district inside and out. As an experienced leader, my work is focused on ensuring every student excels and thrives in Eanes ISD. Since 2020, I have brought passion to the board with a Texas-sized servant's heart, fiduciary discipline, and deep expertise in school finance and fiscal stewardship.



Swasti Apte
Place 3

I am the proud mother of a 2nd grader at Barton Creek Elementary and a 6th grader at West Ridge Middle School. My family chose Eanes for its tradition of academic excellence, but we are currently at a critical financial and operational crossroads. Eanes ISD faces a projected \$5–6 million deficit, yet again this school year. In response, the district has proposed cutting vital classroom resources, ending critical academic pathways like IPC science and compacted math, and freezing teacher pay—all while pushing a \$900 million bond and maintaining heavy central administration overhead. I decided to run for Place 3 because this moment demands a board who can bridge the budget gap strategically, with student outcomes in mind. As a healthcare executive and strategic planner with 20 years of experience, I have built my career optimizing complex organizations and finding creative revenue solutions. I am running as a non-partisan candidate to bring professional discipline, fiscal sensibility, and genuine listening back to our Board of Trustees. We must account for the tax dollars we have already spent before asking our community for a massive bond.



Diane Hern
Place 3

I care deeply about the Eanes-Westlake community and the work it does to prepare our youth for the future. My three children attended Eanes schools for their entire K-12 education, and I am so grateful for the strong foundation provided to each of them. Like so many others, I have supported our schools extensively through volunteer work in the classroom, on the field, on committees, and through numerous parent organizations. The time I have invested and continue to invest has given me insight into what makes Eanes successful and where we have room for growth and improvement. Three years ago, I ran for the board because I wanted to bring my evidence-based mindset and a desire to focus on outcomes and metrics to our governing body. For the last 3 years, I have had the opportunity to study our district and public education with unique lens. I have asked A LOT of questions, learning the details of finance, assessments and accountability, and so much more. I am ready and eager to continue in this role. With new leadership at the helm, the future of Eanes excites me, but we must navigate these waters wisely with a focus on strong community engagement.

Q2

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITHIN THE LAST 6 MONTHS TO SUPPORT EANES (A) STUDENTS AND (B) STAFF?



Kate Ivers
Place 1

Over the past six months, I have spent a great deal of time listening to parents, teachers, and administrators because the best solutions start with understanding people's real experiences. We are facing challenges, including declining enrollment and high teacher attrition.

For students, I have shown up at games, events, and community conversations, celebrating what makes Eanes special while also hearing where students feel pressure or experience gaps in support. For teachers and staff, I have had candid discussions about workload, morale, and what is needed to retain great educators. I have worked to elevate those voices so they are part of the broader community conversation, not an afterthought, and I will continue to do so as a trustee.

Finally, I have financially supported the district through EEF because strong schools require all of us to invest not only our time and attention, but also our resources.



Afshan Khan
Place 1

Over the past six months, I've loved finding ways to support Eanes students and staff in meaningful ways. I have co-chaired the Westlake Baccalaureate Committee for the last 5 years and volunteer at Cultural Arts Day, celebrating the amazing creativity and achievements of our diverse student population. As a psychiatrist, I've worked with students on their mental health, helping integrate 504 and IEP plans, and collaborating with staff on early strategies to support emotional well-being before challenges grow. I've also been honored to mentor and provide shadowing opportunities for WHS students interested in careers in psychiatry, helping them explore their passions and gain real-world experience.

I've also enjoyed volunteering with the girls' golf team for the last 4 years and giving back through the Eanes Education Foundation and Chap Club.

For me, it's all about connection - showing up for students, supporting teachers, and helping every child feel seen and encouraged. Small efforts can make a big difference, and I'm grateful for every opportunity to help our students thrive, both academically and emotionally, while inspiring the next generation to explore meaningful careers.



Robert Morrow
Place 1

I often brag about how good the Eanes football team has been in past years and that a Bridgepoint Elementary School student Nick Foles was a Super Bowl champion with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Q2

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITHIN THE LAST 6 MONTHS TO SUPPORT EANES (A) STUDENTS AND (B) STAFF?



Jennifer Blackman
Place 2

Ongoing: collaborate with teachers and staff at monthly CLT and DLT meetings.

Ongoing: meet monthly as a member of the Eanes Education Foundation (EEF) Board of Directors to discuss effective fundraising strategies on behalf of EEF which serves to provide and sustain district-wide opportunities for educational excellence within Eanes ISD.

Jan 2026 - Present: Participate in an 18-month training program, Community Leaders Fellowship, led by RYHT, focused on effective advocacy for public education in Texas.

Feb 2026: Volunteered at BPE Cultural Arts Day, an action-packed morning serving BPE students and teachers. While stationed in my daughter's 3rd grade homeroom where students and teachers rotated through, I facilitated a presentation on North American agriculture and a classroom discussion followed by on-theme craft activities.

Nov 2025 - Feb 2026: Co-chaired EEF's 2026 Gala, Kaleidoscope, which celebrated remarkable Eanes ISD teachers and achievements and brought together households from across the district with infinite personal perspectives, united by a shared mission.

Oct - Nov 2025: Co-chaired BPE's Teacher Fund Campaign, over \$171,000 for EEF during a 2-week period.



Laura Clark
Place 2

Hiring the superintendent, one of the most important responsibilities of the board. I served on that committee. In a nationally competitive market, with extensive community input and real time constraints, we got it right. That hire shapes everything: curriculum, culture, teacher retention and how we navigate the funding fight ahead. Our kids and staff deserve a leader ready for what's coming. That's exactly who we found. Everything else flows from that. What I've done in the last six months has also been my focus over the past six years: hundreds of hours in board meetings and prep, countless hours at student events, meeting with parents, sitting down with educators to understand what they actually need. Every budget vote, every policy decision, every fight against state-imposed financial hardships, all of it in service of students and teachers.



Swasti Apte
Place 3

Over the past six months, I founded the "Holding Eanes Leadership Accountable" forum, listening to approximately 1,000 parents, voters, and educators to understand their concerns around safety, academics, and budget transparency.

(a) For students: I have sought crowd-sourced solutions to help us avoid the unannounced closure of Valley View, cut of Spanish Immersion, removal of IPC science and compacted math pathways, and raised awareness about overcrowding and safety issues following the Valley View-Barton Creek merger — resulting in some neighborhoods being offered enrollment at Forest Trail Elementary to ease the burden.

(b) For staff: I have pushed for a central administration audit and the urgent pursuit of additional revenue generation before any consideration of freezing teacher salaries, cutting specials, or increasing class sizes -consistent with the community's December 2025 survey mandate.

In parallel, I have been actively reaching out to engaged voices across the district to identify near-term revenue opportunities, and I am consulting with a round table of finance and business professionals to evaluate and optimize revenue generation ideas for the district's benefit.



Diane Hern
Place 3

I had the opportunity this fall to work with fellow trustees to hire a new superintendent for Eanes. The individual we selected, Kirk Koennecke, is a visionary and award-winning leader dedicated to championing the voices of both our students and educators. He is passionate about ensuring that leadership development is a priority for our students K-12 and that all of our educators are provided high quality professional development. I have also been focused on supporting both students and staff through efforts to find new revenue sources to address fiscal concerns. Specifically, I helped recruit a diverse cohort of 10 community members and staff to participate in an 18-month training experience run by Raise Your Hand Texas. This training will help us develop our Eanes story and better communicate it to our community and the Texas legislature for the next session. Also of note, as a member of the Westlake Rotary for many years, I have devoted time to fundraising for the district Educator of the Year Awards and have enjoyed the opportunity to present staff with surprise awards on each Eanes campus throughout the school year.

Q3

WHAT SPECIFIC AREAS DO YOU SEE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH IN HOW EANES SUPPORTS STUDENTS' ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND EXTRACURRICULAR NEEDS? HOW WOULD YOU APPROACH THOSE CHANGES, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHOSE NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET?



Kate Ivers
Place 1

Eanes is an exceptional district academically, and that is a major draw for enrollment. But excellence isn't just about test scores. It is about how every child feels when they walk into school each day and how every parent feels at drop off. Unfortunately, I see a significant level of mistrust in the district, and that must change if we are to grow.

We need a culture that emphasizes partnership with parents to support the whole child, especially in areas like mental health, special education, individualized learning, and safety. My commitment is to listen, act thoughtfully, and expect accountability. That means engaging with families and teachers, identifying gaps, piloting solutions, and being honest about what is working and what is not. Rebuilding trust is the first step toward growth.



Afshan Khan
Place 1

Academically, I want to help make learning more personalized so every student, whether they need extra support or want to be challenged, can feel engaged and inspired. Tools like AI and targeted interventions can help teachers meet students where they are and support their growth.

Socially, as a child psychiatrist, I know the importance of preventive care and early intervention. Helping students feel connected, build resilience, and foster a sense of belonging are critical. Strengthening counseling and placing social-emotional benchmarks are key to doing this.

In extracurriculars, I want opportunities to be more personalized so every student finds something they love. Expanding summer enrichment programs could give kids even more experiences and serve as a creative, sustainable way to help the district's financial deficit and support teachers' extra income.

For students whose needs aren't currently being met, my approach would start with listening to families, teachers, students and then putting thoughtful, data-informed strategies into action. My goal is simple: Every child should feel supported, challenged, and connected while keeping Eanes the excellent district we all value.



Robert Morrow
Place 1

We should improve the food in the lunchroom because good food is necessary for these students to be healthy. In the lunchroom I would put up signs saying "Christ is a complete fraud and Trump [perpetrates violence against children] with Epstein."

Q3

WHAT SPECIFIC AREAS DO YOU SEE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH IN HOW EANES SUPPORTS STUDENTS' ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND EXTRACURRICULAR NEEDS? HOW WOULD YOU APPROACH THOSE CHANGES, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHOSE NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET?



Jennifer Blackman
Place 2

Academic support:

- *Implement formative benchmarking across grades and subjects to track mastery; adjust instruction weekly/as needed
- *Provide tiered support without stigmatization —expand flexible intervention blocks (e.g. WIN time, advisory) so support is universal not remedial
- *Enhanced differentiation and targeted interventional support —increased challenge for high-achieving students (e.g. independent study, mentorships) and more structured support for students who need extra help
- *Connect learning with purpose —real world application via project-based learning and tasks

Social support:

- *Parent education —equip families with tools for stress, anxiety, and academic pressure
- *Normalize checkins —not limited to crises response
- *Belonging & inclusion —ensure all student groups feel represented, looking beyond the academically successful

Extracurricular support:

- *Student-led innovation —give students more ownership to create clubs and events based on emerging interests
- *Increase student involvement in district management; establish a student committee for the Superintendent



Laura Clark
Place 2

As the no. 1 district in Texas, we have to keep asking the hard questions. Who are we missing? Whose path doesn't fit what we've built? Here's what I know. Alternative learning pathways and expanded CTE programs provide a different kind of excellence, and we owe it to our students to build them out. But none of that matters if a student is too overwhelmed to show up or doesn't feel safe. Students feeling safe is the foundation everything else sits on. Counselors and peace officers aren't overhead; they're how we make everything else we're proud of actually accessible. Running through all of it is inclusion. Not as a program, but as a culture. Students with disabilities belong fully in this community, in classrooms, in activities, in the life of this district. These things feed each other. A kid who feels like they belong, who has a path that fits them, who gets support when needed is a kid that succeeds. Start with students. Listen to teachers. Follow the data.



Swasti Apte
Place 3

Our greatest opportunity for growth is rebuilding the foundation that makes Eanes exceptional: retaining great teachers and ensuring every dollar spent demonstrably improves student outcomes.

Teacher turnover at EISD is 2x the national average. This is not just a budget problem — it is an academic one. Experienced teachers keep students from falling through the cracks, and we are losing them to neighboring districts. I will prioritize competitive salaries and work to understand what non-compensation factors are driving attrition, so we address root causes, not just symptoms.

Socially, we must recognize the growing density of Special Education (SPED) in our district. Eanes must shift from a per-campus SPED staffing model to a per-student model — ensuring resources follow need, not geography. Barton Creek, with the highest enrollment and SPED density of any elementary in the district, should be resourced to service that population, not subject to arbitrary per-campus counts.

Restoring eliminated pathways like IPC and compacted math matters to me — but as part of a broader commitment to spending where outcomes prove it counts most.



Diane Hern
Place 3

Eanes is a district where parents and students have high expectations for achievement in both academics and extracurricular endeavors. To best support academic needs, the district must continue to prioritize the early identification of neurodivergences and provide the necessary supports. Our goal should be an individualized learning experience that allows EVERY student to accelerate at the pace that best suits them. To support academic success, we must also continue the important work focused on building a culture of caring, kindness, inclusivity, perseverance. Efforts that support social acceptance and student mental wellbeing ultimately translate to greater student success at Eanes and beyond. Finally, I feel strongly that we must focus on providing students with a broad array of opportunities that excite them both inside and outside the classroom during their entire Eanes experience K-12. These opportunities can be strengthened through the intentional vertical alignment of programs and also exposure to educators and other mentors who help students discover and explore their passions.

Q4

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO PURSUE FAIRNESS IN THE BUDGETING PROCESS AS THE DISTRICT SEEKS TO ADDRESS ITS MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT?



Kate Ivers
Place 1

Fairness starts with clear priorities and a transparent plan. I would advocate for a priority driven budgeting approach that aligns spending with student outcomes and district goals.

What is missing today, however, is clear communication about the trade-offs being made. I want to engage stakeholders earlier, ensure resources are allocated equitably across campuses throughout the restructuring process, and clearly explain why these changes are necessary.

Addressing the deficit will require difficult decisions, but those decisions must be grounded in data and should never appear arbitrary or rushed. When people understand the “why” within the context of a comprehensive, long-term plan, I believe trust will follow.



Afshan Khan
Place 1

Addressing a multi-million dollar deficit requires difficult decisions. As a school board member, I would prioritize a transparent, data-driven approach, ensuring that decisions are guided by essential student services, campus enrollment, and measurable outcomes, not arbitrary cuts.

Eanes is known for its excellence, and I am committed to protecting and championing that standard through clear, thoughtful decision-making. I would advocate for prioritizing classroom instruction and essential student services, ensuring we preserve the high-quality education our community expects and deserves.

Engaging stakeholders is also critical. I would work to ensure that parents, teachers, and staff have a voice in the process, and that budget decisions are communicated openly to build trust.

I would take a thoughtful and proactive approach to identifying revenue-generating opportunities, whether through partnerships, rentals, or other innovative avenues so we are not solely relying on cuts to close the gap.

Ultimately, this is about making balanced, responsible decisions that protect student outcomes, support educators, and sustain the excellence of our district for the long term.



Robert Morrow
Place 1

I've been thinking a LOT about Ann Margaret in her prime and I really have not had time to think about or process this.

Q4

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO PURSUE FAIRNESS IN THE BUDGETING PROCESS AS THE DISTRICT SEEKS TO ADDRESS ITS MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT?



Jennifer Blackman
Place 2

Let's start by defining what's not fair: operating at a multi-million dollar deficit year over year. For the past 6 years Eanes has passed deficit budgets, causing uncertainty for all stakeholders. With proper strategic planning we can efficiently manage our district, incl. facilities needs, and raise taxes only as a last resort. That said, to get our district sustainably back into the black, budget cuts are required and will impact everyone in the district, though not simultaneously. For example, the LRFPC recommends closing Eanes Elementary next and rebuilding Cedar Creek Elementary. To do this, CCE students will need to temporarily relocate to the old VVE building. It is critical we balance being sensitive to families in our community while addressing the urgency of restructuring our finances. Delaying these financial decisions leads to reactive and harder choices down the road.

I am committed to working collaboratively with every student, every parent, every board member, along with the Superintendent and his team, to develop and implement a long-term plan that will be fair, though in the short-term may require certain families to bear a bigger burden earlier in the process.



Laura Clark
Place 2

Trustees look at the full picture. Every program, every campus, every student, every dollar. That's the job. State funding is a real problem as recapture takes 65 cents of every tax dollar before we can spend a penny on our kids. The district requires focused leadership on budgeting and government relations to navigate through this reality. Families deserve to know exactly what we're up against. Community input belongs before decisions are made because teachers and parents know what their classrooms and kids depend on. Protect classroom instruction, teachers, and student programs and find efficiencies everywhere else first.



Swasti Apte
Place 3

Fairness means honoring the community's mandate: prioritizing the classroom over the central office. In the December 2025 Budget Survey, 1,856 participants explicitly demanded the district rethink positions at the top before touching campus-level programs. I will champion a fiscal-first approach that enforces this mandate. Before I vote to freeze teacher pay, cut specials, or support tax increases, I will require a thorough audit of central office overhead, with every dollar tied to student outcomes.

Fairness also means proactively pursuing creative revenue opportunities rather than repeatedly burdening taxpayers. I will push to monetize existing assets through facility leases, event parking, and corporate naming rights, and demand we revisit missed opportunities like the rejected WACC endowment proposal.

To ensure these ideas are rigorously vetted, I am consulting with a round table of community business and finance leaders to evaluate revenue opportunities, stress-test assumptions, and structure proposals that are realistic and beneficial to the district.

Every program must undergo an ROI analysis to ensure our limited dollars directly support teachers and students.



Diane Hern
Place 3

Addressing large school district budget deficits demands a thoughtful process that involves careful consideration of the potential impact on students and educators. Fairness is rooted in the belief that all possible options have been brought to the table and evaluated using criteria that reflect the values of the district. It is also rooted in the belief that the data and assumptions used to develop the options are accurate. A fair process includes a timeline for decision making that allows for opportunities for stakeholder engagement by the district to ensure that all factors have been taken into consideration. When making tough decisions as a trustee, I have personally found it beneficial to seek out additional community conversations independently, particularly with those voices that are critical. Ultimately, budget cuts rarely impact every community member equally, and the process of pursuing fairness is a careful weighing of many factors across groups and campuses and also across time. As with many decisions, the pursuit of fairness demands follow up, evaluation, and possible adjustments.

Q5

WHAT DO YOU THINK AI'S ROLE SHOULD BE IN K-12 EDUCATION FOR BOTH (A) STUDENTS AND (B) STAFF?



Kate Ivers
Place 1

AI should enhance, not replace, teaching and learning. As an AI entrepreneur and attorney focused on intellectual property and commercial transactions, I understand both its potential and its risks, including issues such as bias, accuracy, and overreliance. Schools must approach AI with both optimism and responsibility.

For students, AI can support personalized learning, strengthen critical thinking, and build digital literacy. For teachers, it can reduce administrative burden and create more time for instruction and meaningful engagement with students.

We also need to think long term. AI is reshaping the workforce, and our curriculum must evolve so students graduate with the skills, judgment, and adaptability they will need to thrive.

Handled well, this is an opportunity to further distinguish our district by offering an innovative, future focused education that competes with top private schools. The district's role is to set clear guidelines, ensure ethical use, and provide training so students and staff can use AI effectively and safely.



Afshan Khan
Place 1

AI is here to stay, and it has tremendous potential to be a supportive tool in K-12 education when used thoughtfully and responsibly. For students, it can enhance personalized learning, meeting them where they are, reinforcing concepts, and sparking curiosity while still prioritizing critical thinking and independent problem-solving. AI should complement learning, not replace the essential human connection at the heart of education.

For teachers and staff, AI can help ease administrative burdens, streamline lesson planning, and even support real-time assessments, allowing educators to better identify student needs and create more meaningful, responsive learning experiences in the classroom.

At the same time, implementation must be guided by strong guardrails.

Districts should ensure clear policies around ethical use, data privacy, and academic integrity, with appropriate safeguards to protect students. AI should be used in a focused and intentional way that promotes equity, transparency, and safety.



Robert Morrow
Place 1

AI should be used to allow everyone to practice their own religion BUT at the same time AI should be used to educate the students that Christianity is a complete fraud and that Jesus is dead, never was king, never rose from the dead and never perform any miracles. The links between Christians and [perpetrator of violence against children] madman Donald Trump should be explored. My Lord and Savior is Kermit the Frog.

Q5

WHAT DO YOU THINK AI'S ROLE SHOULD BE IN K-12 EDUCATION FOR BOTH (A) STUDENTS AND (B) STAFF?



Jennifer Blackman
Place 2

In sum: I support AI as a tool to augment learning, not to outsource or replace it. Currently I'm reading *The Digital Delusion*, by Dr. Jared Horvath. It is by no means anti-tech but rather pro-learning —supported by two centuries of educational data from the West. In the prologue Horvath states: Our children are less cognitively capable than we were at their age. Alarming? Perhaps. However for many parents it may confirm what they have long suspected.

To build life-long learners we can't afford cognitive offloading —relying on external devices to perform mental tasks. There is a place for AI; undoubtedly it is a productivity boosting tool. However, as Horvath notes, "productivity is not the same as learning" (p. 111). Thus we must first build a foundation of subject matter, knowledge, critical thinking skills, and mental muscles before using AI to finesse an assignment.

For staff: I support using AI to streamline paperwork and other time-sinking tasks.

If Eanes is truly an innovation district, and AI is here to stay, we need to be on the forefront of learning how to equip our students to leverage this powerful tool, with an eye to ensuring cognitive abilities are not forfeited.



Laura Clark
Place 2

AI is here, and we must acknowledge that reality. The question isn't whether it belongs in schools. It's how we use it well and where we draw the line. For students, AI can shorten the distance between a question and the knowledge needed to explore it. Research, summarizing complex material, personalized practice. But it cannot replace critical thinking, writing, and composition. These aren't skills to hand off. A student who uses AI to research a topic, challenges what it tells them, and forms their own argument? That's the goal. A student who uses AI to write their essay hasn't learned to write, and that's a disservice to their own growth. AI has real limitations. It doesn't build community. It doesn't create a culture where a kid feels safe enough to explore. Those things still require human beings. For staff, the opportunity is real: differentiated instruction, personalized lesson planning, data-driven intervention. AI can give teachers back time that goes directly toward kids. That matters when we're asking educators to do more with less. Eanes already has a thoughtful AI policy in place. My job as a trustee is making sure we resource it and evolve it as technology changes.



Swasti Apte
Place 3

AI has enormous potential here — if adopted with discipline. Based on consultation with a national school AI expert, I'd anchor Eanes on three pillars: 1) enterprise-grade tools only (Copilot, Gemini, etc.) so student data never enters training models; 2) guiding principles anchored in our honor policy; and 3) clear per-assignment labels — AI as Coach, Collaborator, or No AI — applied consistently.

(a) For students: No unsupervised AI under 13. For older students, a structured short list of tools builds real skills without enabling "cheat codes."

(b) For staff: AI tackles two connected problems. On workload: drafting curriculum units, assessments, and differentiated materials from standards takes hours — AI compresses that to minutes, returning time to teachers and easing burnout behind our 2x national turnover rate. On instruction: that same capability enables genuine personalized learning at scale — one teacher, multiple skill levels, with AI generating differentiated curriculum and assessments for each group. Students advance by demonstrated competency, not grade level. Lighter administrative load means more capacity for individualized instruction that moves student outcomes.



Diane Hern
Place 3

AI is progressing at an accelerating rate that astounds even the most tech savvy people amongst us. To be sure, we must incorporate AI into both the student and staff experience; however, we must proceed with caution. Our objective is to prepare our youth to be successful in the world beyond Eanes. This will continue to require the ability to think critically and learn deeply. We should be very cautious of "cognitive offloading" that undermines the true learning experience. As we contemplate the role of AI, we should also re-evaluate the role of all educational technology in our schools, particularly for our youngest learners. When used judiciously, AI and other digital technology can serve as tools that enhance learning and allow students to advance at a pace most appropriate to them. AI can aid busy teachers in lesson planning and grading, but again it must be used wisely, and teachers must be appropriately trained. Finally, we are entering a world where AI agents will be able to assist with other school functions beyond the classroom and provide operational efficiencies that allow us to focus our precious dollars where they matter most — on the student experience.

Q6

IF YOU COULD DIRECT THE BOARD'S ATTENTION TO ONLY ONE ISSUE IN YOUR FIRST YEAR, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY — AND WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE 12 MONTHS LATER?



Kate Ivers
Place 1

My top priority would be restoring long-term financial stability while maintaining educational excellence. The district's deficit requires thoughtful, strategic action. Success after 12 months would look like a clear, transparent financial plan, aligned spending priorities, and increased community confidence in the district's direction. This foundation is critical to sustaining everything else we want to achieve for students and staff.



Afshan Khan
Place 1

I would prepare our district for the future of education while responsibly addressing our multi-million dollar deficit. These priorities are deeply connected; how we navigate our financial challenges will shape our ability to remain a leader in education.

Education is evolving. It's becoming more flexible, individualized, and less confined to traditional classroom boundaries. We must remain both innovative and competitive. Thoughtfully integrating tools like AI to support personalized learning, while continuing to prioritize strong academics and social-emotional development.

At the same time, we must approach the deficit with clarity and purpose. I would focus on protecting what matters most in the classroom while actively pursuing sustainable partnerships and new revenue opportunities. I am committed to going out into the community to help identify and build those partnerships so we are not relying solely on cuts to close the gap.

Twelve months later, success would look like a clear financial and strategic path forward, one that stabilizes the budget, strengthens partnerships, and supports a more innovative, student-centered learning environment.



Robert Morrow
Place 1

Big one - how Eanes needs to allow freedom of religion but also take a really big stand in telling everybody that Christianity is a complete fraud and the Bible is boring gibberish. Also, EISD school board should investigate if Karl Rove is really an [disparaging speech towards LGBTQIA+ community] like a lot of really smart people are saying.

Q6

IF YOU COULD DIRECT THE BOARD'S ATTENTION TO ONLY ONE ISSUE IN YOUR FIRST YEAR, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY — AND WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE 12 MONTHS LATER?



Jennifer Blackman
Place 2

We must start by getting our financial house in order while prioritizing long-term goals, including navigating our continually shrinking enrollment. We cannot continue passing multi-million dollar deficit budgets and expect problems like 20% teacher attrition and declining student enrollment to fix themselves. A strategic plan coupled with constructive action is essential to get our district back to financial viability. With the right leadership and levers, Eanes can get back in the black.

My campaign theme is to Preserve Eanes Excellence, Sustainably -with SALT, supported by:

- *Stewardship of Resources
- *Accountability for Outcomes
- *Longevity in Planning
- *Transparency in Communications

To facilitate better results, the Board ought to approach every decision making opportunity through the SALT lens.

Success in 12 months would be a clear direction for programming, staffing, and facilities over the next three years and a plan for years 1 and 2 of how we are going to get there. It would include a transparent directive on our transfer student policy, future tax increases, and new bond issuance —all things we have very little understanding of as we sit here today.



Laura Clark
Place 2

Financial stability. We live in an era where state funding is frozen, vouchers are law, and recapture sends 65 cents of every tax dollar back to the state. The reality for public education in this state is hard and it isn't getting easier. I am a focused leader and will continue to lead the board towards a real financial roadmap with every efficiency identified, every revenue opportunity pursued, every argument made to state legislators, with classroom instruction and teacher compensation protected above everything else. Success looks like keeping Eanes as the no. 1 school district in Texas, managing our money to keep good teachers with competitive pay, and a culture where students feel proud and supported.



Swasti Apte
Place 3

Trust and transparency are the prerequisites for everything else on my agenda — and they have a measurable price tag. EEF donations fell 16.2% in a single year, not because this community stopped caring about its schools, but because people stopped believing their money would be managed with discipline or that their voices would matter. Rebuilding that trust is not a soft goal; it is the mechanism that unlocks real revenue.

Success in 12 months looks like two concrete outcomes. First, a measurable rebound in EEF giving — because we have implemented public financial dashboards, completed an administrative overhead audit, and published outcomes-linked KPIs that give donors genuine confidence their dollars are reaching students.

Second, at least one community-backed revenue proposal — naming rights, a facility partnership, or a public private-structure — that has moved from idea to vetted, structured proposal through genuine community co-creation. When residents feel like partners rather than audiences, they generate both philanthropic dollars and political will for larger revenue strategies. That combination is what makes a durable path forward possible.



Diane Hern
Place 3

If I must choose only one area of focus for the next year, it would be SUPPORTING TEACHERS. It is widely accepted that the most important element in a child's education is a teacher who inspires them to learn and who is well-equipped to do so. We do not pay teachers enough for this mission-driven job, and the fact that state funding is not indexed to inflation has made this worse over the years. Ask any teacher and you will hear that the job has become more challenging. Students have changed. The ability to focus on lessons and tasks has declined in a world where our youth often have devices in their hands beginning at a very young age. Additionally, both technology and the pandemic have created social deficits that impact classroom management as well. Now more than ever we must focus on the teacher experience. This means truly listening to their voices, providing them with the support and professional development they need, and ensuring that they believe in a shared vision for the future of Eanes. Success in 12 months would include higher teacher retention, higher teacher attendance rates, and positive feedback on teacher climate surveys.



EANES *for* EVERYONE

VOTING RESOURCES

BALLOT INFORMATION

Eanes ISD Trustee Board Election:

www.eanesisd.net/board/election

For your custom ballot & voter guide:

vote411.org.

WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

Last Day to Register: April 2, 2026

Early Voting: April 20 - Apr 28, 2026

Election Day: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Voting Locations: www.votetravis.com

CANDIDATE WEBSITES

Kate Ivers

<https://www.ivers4eanes.com>

Afshan Khan

<https://www.afshankhanforeanes.com>

Robert Morrow

not available

Jennifer Blackman

<https://www.jenniferblackman4eanes.com>

Laura Clark

<https://www.laura4eanes.com>

Diane Hern

<https://www.diane4eanes.com>

Swasti Apte

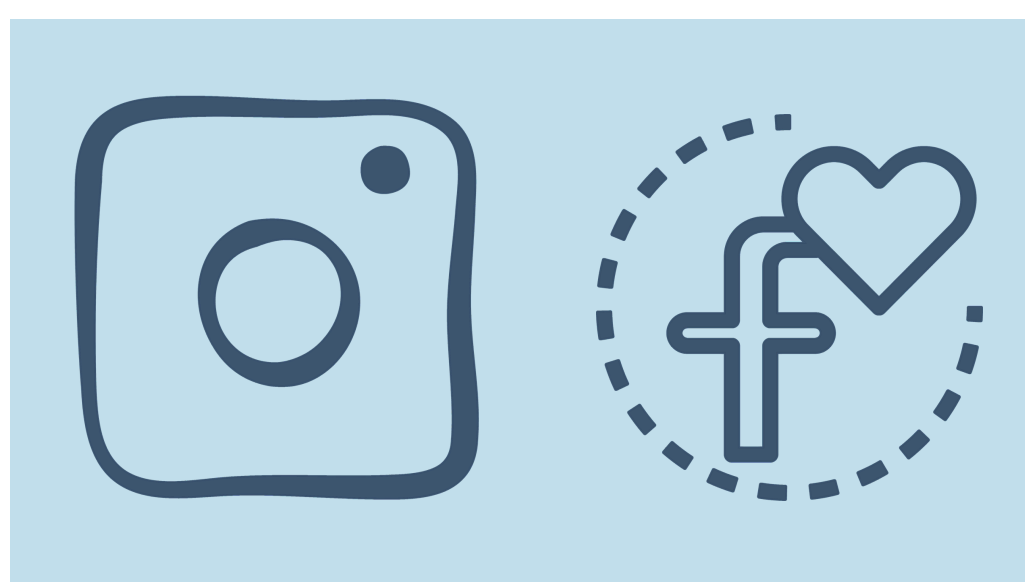
<https://www.swastiforeanes.com>

EANES FOR EVERYONE IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER, 501(C)(3) TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY EFFORTS (LIKE THIS VOTER GUIDE), CHECKING OUT OUR EVENTS, FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND SHARING WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



www.betterunite.com/e4e2025



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www.eanes4everyone.org