



November 12, 2018

RE: The Brenham Independent School District's Legislative Priorities

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst
Texas Senate
PO Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Ben Leman
Texas House of Representatives
Room E1.512
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Texas State Board of Education
Mr. Tom Maynard
SBOE Member, District 10
PO Box 625
Florence, TX 76527

Dear Senator Kolkhorst, Representative Leman, and Mr. Maynard:

The members of the Brenham ISD Board of Trustees are writing to thank you for your dedicated service to Washington County and to Brenham ISD. As you begin making preparations for the 86th legislative session, we want to make you aware of our concerns, publicly voice our sentiments, and express how important it is to have your much-needed support and protection of public schools in order to ensure a strong future for our great state. Below is an outline of the Brenham ISD Board of Trustees Legislative priorities. As members of the board, we plan to be actively engaged in the legislative process this coming session. Please keep us informed of important hearings, committee meetings, etc., so that we or Dr. Jackson, our superintendent, can be present to voice our concerns before these legislative committees. We are planning to testify when called upon by the legislative committees.

Legislative Priorities for the Board of Trustees of Brenham ISD:

- 1) We respectfully ask that you use your legislative influence to provide a state academic accountability system that evaluates school quality and student performance as fairly and accurately as possible, without penalizing schools for factors outside their control. The accountability system should include multiple measures of student performance and growth, rather than an over-reliance on standardized tests, in order to ensure that students are more fully prepared for college, the workforce, or the military upon graduation.
- 2) We respectfully ask that you use your legislative influence to ensure that legislation is passed that will provide for adequate and equitable school funding for the Texas Public School System and that public school teachers are adequately compensated with state funding.
- 3) We respectfully ask that you use your legislative influence to provide state funding for a full day pre-kindergarten program.
- 4) We respectfully ask that you use your legislative influence to implement a state system of public education that provides state-funded support for campus-based mental and behavioral health services for students.
- 5) We respectfully ask that you use your legislative influence to provide the flexibility for districts to select appropriate safety measures for their facilities, and in which safety measures are funded by the State.
- 6) We respectfully ask the TEA to select TEKS curriculum that is developmentally appropriate for students who are expected to meet these performance requirements and to ensure that all STAAR tests are aligned to those developmentally appropriate TEKS.
- 7) We respectfully ask that the state legislature not impose any unfunded mandates upon the public schools.
- 8) We respectfully ask that you vigorously oppose any legislation that is brought to the House or Senate as it relates to vouchers or the state adding any additional support or funding to charter schools, which consistently threatens to ciphre funds from the Texas Public School System. We are adamantly opposed to vouchers.
- 9) We respectfully ask that you vigorously oppose any legislation that proposes using public funds to support educating students in private or parochial schools. These schools are not governed by locally elected officials and are not subject to the same accountability system as Texas public schools. We are adamantly opposed to this.

The State of Texas was founded by leaders dedicated to creating a strong public school system. The public school system in Texas is undergoing a massive transformation, and we need your support to

make certain our school system grows stronger. We need your support to make certain our teachers feel valued and respected by our elected officials. We need your support to ensure that our students are afforded every opportunity available to have a chance at the American Dream. We hope that we can count on you to support our publicly stated interests in maintaining a highly efficient and effective public education system in Texas.

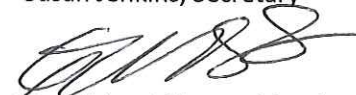
Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We welcome the opportunity to publicly express our concerns and look forward to working with you to strengthen the public education system in Texas on behalf of the students we serve.

Sincerely Yours,
Brenham ISD Board of Trustees


Natalie Lange, President


Melvin Ehlert, Vice President

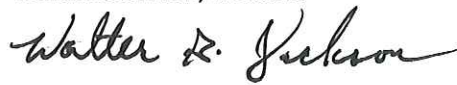

Susan Jenkins, Secretary


Dr. Michael Altman, Member


Sergeant Kelvin Raven, Member


Mark Schneider, Member


Tommie Sullivan, Member


Dr. Walter Jackson
Superintendent of Schools