

**Brenham ISD Board Candidates Questionnaire-2023**  
**Brenham/Washington County, TX**

**Bonnie Brinkmeyer**  
**Candidate-Position 1**

# **Brenham ISD Board Candidates Questionnaire-2023**

## **1. Why have you decided to run for election at this time?**

Our district is in transition and there are some important decisions that have to be made for our schools- student safety, low reading achievement in early grades, hiring and increasing the pay of certified teachers and instructional aides, communication, transparency, discipline. Change is needed and our local school board needs people who will stand up for our kids and our schools. We need good listeners, positive thinkers, honest leaders who have experience and common sense. We need a sense of humor, but no sarcasm. We need people who can look to the future while learning from the past, and who can think on their own and be calm in chaos, and friendly but tough decision makers who work well with others and will always put kids first.

I'm that person! I have 38 years of experience in Brenham ISD as a classroom teacher, principal of Krause Elementary and Brenham Middle Schools and director of Curriculum and Instruction, then Assessment and Accountability. My experiences have taught me patience and how to set priorities that always center around kids. I hope voters trust me and will feel free to share their concerns and ideas with me. Working collaboratively with other board members, we can create a safe, academically successful, unified district with a strong partnership with all members of our community.

## **2. What key competencies do you feel you possess to be a school board trustee? Briefly describe your background in areas such as financial analysis, leadership, effective communication, understanding of educational system issues, ability to contribute to strategic planning and initiatives, and consensus building.**

I've enjoyed my career working with schools and I've learned how Brenham ISD schools and other Texas schools operate. I've worked with budgets and collected and reviewed data for financial analysis and planning. I've had training and years of experience in

educational leadership. Effective communication and consensus building are probably two of my greatest strengths. I understand educational system issues of all kinds and I've been part of strategic planning and initiatives that reach beyond the present into the future. I know what the roles of a school board are and I look forward to being part of a school board "team" where we can share our strengths and keep kids as our highest priority.

I admit that I don't know everything, but I'm always willing to learn!

**3. What is your vision for education in this community?**

I have ideas and a vision of a powerful, successful, safe school district where children learn and respect their teachers and grow up to be productive citizens, whether they are college-bound or aiming for trade school, technical school or any other kinds of training. I envision a close, united community where parents and schools share an unbroken partnership, with schools that attract families and add value to their communities. My vision is a school district where facts replace rumors and negativity, and where success replaces failure.

**Kids First! That's my vision and I hope that it's yours too!**

**4. How do you feel Brenham ISD impacts the local economy? How can the Brenham ISD Board make a positive impact on local economic growth?**

I've talked to many of our parents, local business leaders, including our mayoral candidates. Parents who choose to live in Washington County want their children in safe, successful schools, but they also want to live where their salaries provide enough income for housing, food, healthcare, and many other essentials. Just as we need more teachers, we also need more industries and businesses to strengthen our local economy and tax base. Our industries and primary employers benefit from well-trained qualified workers and leaders who are attracted to our community, along with our "Baseball, Bluebonnets, Blinn and Blue Bell".

If Brenham ISD offers safe, high-performing schools to families and if the schools provide strong academic skills and values to the students, then employees who make enough money will choose to live and work here and they will make a significant impact on economic growth.

5. Describe your view of the roles of the school board and the superintendent. What is the ideal relationship between these two?

We live in a nation that is divided in so many ways. How we live together in our community will be teaching our next generation how to get along, so we need to get it right. The relationship of the school board and the superintendent should be balanced, professional and student-centered. Superintendents and their school boards should listen and learn from each other. I've heard it called a "Team of 8".

The school board governs the district with the advice of the superintendent, but not by micromanaging. The superintendent manages the district with oversight and management of the board, within the framework of policies and priorities that the board adopts.

School board responsibilities include:

Adopt goals and priorities and monitor success

Adopt local policies and review for effectiveness

Hire and evaluate the superintendent

Adopt a budget and set a tax rate

Communicate with the community: district plans, actions, and accomplishments

Promote continued, constructive discussion

Generate positive community interest in the efforts of the public schools

Please vote for Bonnie Brinkmeyer, Position 1

Thank you to the Washington County Chamber of Commerce!

