

Eileen Riverside

How long have you lived in Prosper?

6 years

Do you currently have children attending Prosper ISD schools?

Yes, 2 children and my husband is a teacher in the district.

Do you have children who graduated from Prosper ISD?

Not yet.

What is your history of involvement in the district/community?

With 2 littles that I stay at home with, sometimes I feel a bit limited. I volunteered at Heritage night at 2 campuses. I love to bake and cook for events at Rucker for staff and teachers (like the Souper Bowl or the dessert table). Currently, I volunteer at Collin County College on their Medical Assisting Advanced Practice review board. I just finished a volunteer 3 year stint for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) as a reviewer and question writer for the National Disaster Healthcare exam. I volunteer for the Dallas County Medical Reserve Corp (since I work in Dallas). I worked the Ebola hotline at the EOC in Dallas County Health and Human Services. I also volunteer with Friends of Dallas CERT where I worked a few overnight shifts during Hurricane Harvey. I love to attend various sporting events and celebrations at the various schools I'm involved with (Rock Hill, Stuber, and Rucker).

Why are you running for school board?

If you asked me a year ago if I would be running for school board, I probably would have laughed. This was never my intent. After learning that my child was exposed to a child molester via a news article, the lengths the district went to conceal or quiet what was happening caused me to consider. Schools should be a safe place. The fact that no changes were made to policy until after a public outcry were shocking. I think this is a great district, but it has some flaws we can iron out. I am not afraid to confront what needs to be said. I've now spoken at several board meetings in the past year.

In your opinion, what is the most important decision facing the district today? How would you address it?

It is the openness and transparency of the happenings of the district. Too often, there is lack of discussion, meaningful discussion, in board meetings.

We love to celebrate, which is great. At the same time, we need to be able to switch modes to address parent/staff issues or other concerns. We are quick to describe to the board members, 'you'll see this in your packet' and then dismiss to go to closed session. While I understand there are items that cannot be discussed in open forum, there is barely, if any, discussion in the open forum. Opening the discussion and having each board member say their vote when called upon would be a start to addressing this issue.

Prosper is one of the fastest-growing districts in the state and nation. What is the best way to address that growth and how do we fund the needed buildings to accommodate students?

While it would be nice to open buildings faster, I understand this is a timing issue. If you open buildings too fast, you cannot properly staff them. If you open too slowly, the schools are quickly crowded and portables are placed. We appear to be doing a decent job navigating the bonds (2008/2019) and we are opening numerous buildings a year. Patience is part of the process. New houses, businesses, and schools are still in process and will be for many years to come until the area is built out. I have heard a comment expressing disappointment that land for new schools could have been purchased earlier for a cheaper price. Unfortunately, that is in the past and has since been remedied. Would it have been nice to spare some money? Yes, there is nothing more we can do about it now. I do not want to be the district that constructs faulty buildings for timing. I do not want to be the district that will hiring any breathing soul because we are so desperate for staffing. We have to work the processes in place and be patient.