

Jim Herblin

How long have you lived in Prosper?

1996

Do you currently have children attending Prosper ISD schools?

No

Do you have children who graduated from Prosper ISD?

Yes

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

Chairman Prosper EDC, 2002-2004
Campaigns for Town Council Members
Collin County Republican Precinct Chair, 2012 –

Why are you running for school board?

I am passionate about public education in Texas, particularly right here in Prosper ISD. My top priority is to ensure that our students receive a world-class education that is free of non-educational agendas, sexualization, and inappropriate materials. It is critical that we equip our students with the skills they need to succeed in the workforce or to pursue higher education.

Transparency and accountability are essential to good governance, which is why I will advocate for both majority and minority reports to be prepared. This will ensure that all perspectives are shared for trustees to debate, discuss, and make informed decisions based on the evidence presented in the reports.

In addition, I believe that solving teacher retention and recruitment is key to ensuring a successful education system. To achieve this, we need to pay our teachers better than market rates so that we can attract and retain the best of the best.

Electing me to the board means electing a leader who is passionate about public education and is committed to ensuring that our students receive the best possible education. I am confident that by prioritizing academic excellence, transparency, and teacher retention and recruitment, we can help ensure that the district continues to thrive and provide an exceptional education to our students.

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

In my opinion, the most important decision facing the district today is how to achieve academic excellence in a hyper-growth mode while solving teacher retention and recruiting challenges. Currently, classrooms are overcrowded, and campuses exceed the intended ratios, which leads to a lack of academic excellence for all students. To address this issue, we need to engage in honest dialogue about the challenges facing Prosper ISD in a transparent manner, involving students, teachers, staff, parents, and voters as partners in the process.

We must evaluate the data, feedback, and challenges, along with successes, in a transparent process with high integrity. The committee should issue minority and majority reports to allow trustees and administration to hear from all perspectives and make informed decisions. Transparency on each Trustee's vote and rationale is essential to ensure the community knows how and why the Board is voting, advocating, and acting in the way they are.

Without the best teachers who are fully supported, given continual training, have normal teacher-to-student ratios, etc., achieving academic excellence for each student will be hard to achieve, especially with hyper-growth. We must achieve this goal with transparency and engagement, unlike many of the decisions made today.

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?

As a candidate for the Prosper ISD board, I understand that managing the hyper-growth is one of the most critical challenges facing our district today. To address this, we must have an open dialogue with the various cities and towns that are contributing to our growth, as well as actively engage with their Planning and Zoning Committees and City/Town Councils to ensure that growth patterns are effectively forecasted and planned for. We cannot tackle this growth alone and must collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure a sustainable and effective plan.

We must also work to accelerate the development of critical infrastructure such as water and roads to ensure that we can build the necessary campuses to accommodate the growth. Absolutely, we must work with our neighboring towns, our two counties, and state to accelerate critical infrastructure while building new campuses across Prosper ISD territory.

As for funding, we must be mindful that leveraging debt via bonds is necessary to fund the needed buildings to accommodate students, but we must also ensure that we are spending our money wisely and efficiently. My background as a forensic CPA and business owner will enable me to scrutinize contracts, vendors, and expenses to ensure that we are getting the highest quality services at the most effective cost and that they are delivered on time. We must also

ensure that we are catching up on the necessary campuses that are currently behind and prioritize the needs of our students and teachers to provide them with the best learning environment possible.

Lastly, we must recognize the impact of overcrowding on academic outcomes, student and teacher morale, and work to get our overcrowding under control. I am committed to partnering with various towns, counties, and state governmental bodies, as well as my peer Trustees and the Administration, to get our overcrowding under control and

ensure that all Prosper ISD students have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for the future.