



September 24, 2018

Cherie Moeller
Keller ISD Council of PTA's Advocacy Chair
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Dear Ms. Moeller,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to important issues facing public education in Texas.

I am, myself, a public educator. I retired this June after 24 years in public education with the last eleven as Counselor for Special Needs Children in Arlington ISD. I retired to pursue my campaign to fight for public education full time.

1. School Safety and Security

As a legislator, I will prioritize community and school safety standards to include

- Universal background checks for the purchase of weapons and ammunition
- Increased funding for school counselors
- Increased funding for preventive health care including mental health
- Decreased emphasis on standardized high-stakes assessment (This assessment creates unhealthy school climates and relationships.)

I will also support security measures already in place

- School Site Emergency Safety plans and drills
- Bullying policies and intervention

2. Campus and District Accountability

As a parent and a public educator, I am appalled by the move to reduce education to a market commodity and accountability to a single standardized measure. Our children are not widgets but individuals and our schools are not factories but gardens.

Assessment should be incorporated into daily learning in such a way that it enriches the classroom rather than robs the classroom of time and resources. Best practice assessment includes hands-on projects and products which reflect the knowledge and skills attained.

Campuses and districts are best evaluated by student involvement in active learning to include music, theater, sports, clubs, and community service as well as preparation and certification for meaningful vocation.

As a legislator, I will fight for accountability which respects the community and organic nature of education.

3. Revenue and Funding

The Texas Constitution requires the legislature to adequately fund public education. The legislature should be funding schools at at least 50% of the cost. The current level of funding is inadequate and the current formulas are indecipherable. As a legislator I will fight for increased transparency in the budget and in the recaptured funds. I will also fight against the corporate loopholes which allow for unjust evaluations of corporate property, robbing public education of its revenue. I will also fight to provide more equity in school finance so that property poor districts have the same resources to educate their children as do property rich districts.

4. Vouchers and Corporate Charters

I am on record against the use of public education funds for Vouchers and corporate charters. Public education is, by definition, accountable to the public with publicly elected trustees and community input. The use of public education funds for private endeavors robs the community school of funds and of the leadership of the children and parents who are recruited out of the community school.

Faithfully,

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