

**Dr. Michael Ryan  
Fort Worth ISD District 7  
Candidate Questionnaire**

1. Do you have a religious faith? **Yes**  
If so, what is your house of worship? **HighRidge Church**

2. Please describe your family & what family values mean to you.  
**My wife Michele and I have been married for 37 years and have two grown sons who are both married. The oldest, Chris (Texas A&M, '07) is a nuclear scientist for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and is married to Alexis Crawley Ryan, M.D., a Neuroradiology Fellow at Stanford Hospital. They are expecting their first child in August. The youngest, Zachary (USNA '13) is a Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps (currently deployed with the 24<sup>th</sup> MEU) and his wife, Jennifer Ryan, a B.B.A. graduate of the University of Maryland who takes care of their two sons Samuel, age 4 and Eli, age 1.**

**Family values means that the nuclear family unit is the main functioning entity within the community. The strength and proper functioning of the family is the main factor for success, not only in school but also in life.**

3. FWISD is one of the most underperforming school districts in the state for academic achievement. What ideas do you have for changing this?

**In my 36 years of working in public education, a key factor of success is discipline. Lack of it takes time away from teaching and enforcement leads to success for all students. A majority of the teachers I have met with have stated that discipline (or a lack thereof) is the biggest problem they encounter. They are constantly dealing with discipline issues, which takes time away from teaching. The Board, with input**

**from all stakeholders (teachers, students, administrators, parents, community members) will develop a comprehensive discipline guide and require administration to follow that guide.**

**I also believe that we require students to sit too long with little chance for peer interaction. At Irving ISD, I incorporated 3 extra recess periods a day into the K-2 curriculum based on studies by Dr. Debbie Rhea of T.C.U. and that study's results from use by the lower school at Trinity Valley. This recess time substantially lowered discipline concerns, raised student attentiveness, focus and also helped with peer relationships. FWISD should incorporate this in all of its elementary schools. The results will take some time to finally filter up to secondary schools, but it is much better than buying the "Latest and Greatest" program that happens to be for sale.**

**FWISD does have pockets of great success. What is being done at YMLA, YWLA, TABS and the advanced academic program at Paschal needs to be researched and duplicated throughout the district.**

**And finally, build up the extracurricular area (Fine Arts, Athletics, JROTC, etc.) As research has shown, students who are involved in their school have better attendance rates, which leads to better grades and test scores.**

**4. How would you be accountable and transparent to the public as a Board member?**

**Community members, parents and teachers are welcome to call, text or meet with me at any time. Votes by board members are always recorded and I would welcome conversations with anyone concerned about either an**

**upcoming issue or any vote that I had cast. I can also be reached on my Facebook page.**

5. Do you support the Board adopting a policy to require any proposed administrative regulation be subject to a mandatory public comment period (no less than 30 days) similar to state and federal processes for executive actions?

**Yes**

6. What ideas do you have for using taxpayer money more effectively and transparently? Would you vote to raise taxes?

**The district needs to have a long term (10-20 years) plan for facility rehabilitation, bond construction and technology infrastructure improvements so proper planning and community involvement can occur. For most departments within the district, a zero based budget would allow each department to focus on what is necessary for student improvement. The current CFO has done a great job moving budgets to the proper use categories for more efficient utilization and lower waste.**

**I would vote to raise taxes for demonstrated student needs (not wants) or for emergencies (such as noted below with lead in the water system).**

7. What is your position regarding lead water in FWISD?

**Each school should be tested at the beginning of summer and Christmas breaks and any fix must be completed before the students return to classes.**

8. What is your position on transgender students using bathrooms and locker rooms?

**If I understand the proposed law correctly, that it applies to government offices and schools, then the district would have no choice than to follow the State law.**

**FWISD should have persons with female anatomy in girls' restrooms and persons with male anatomy in boys' restrooms. If there is a concern in the form of a transgender issue, then the school can certainly make the restroom in the nurse's office available for that student. I am sure new schools will have some form of single stall unisex restroom included in the plans. Fort Worth ISD has had a substantial bullying issue even while I was working for them. Students should not have to suffer being bullied by the classmates nor should any other student. I would have to stand on a platform that states, "Every student, parent, teacher and community member should be treated with dignity and respect." All that being said, FWISD will follow whatever law comes from the State.**

9. Do you believe parents/guardians should be entitled to all information about their children including information regarding sexual orientation or gender identity?

**I believe the parents must be a part of all discussions of concerns that affect their child under the age of 18. There is still a safety net for the child in which the law requires school employees to contact CPS if they suspect a child could be in danger or is being abused.**