

Candidates for Manor ISD School Board; term ending May 2014

Name: Desiree Barnes Cornelius-Fisher

My background:

My family and I are lifelong residents of Manor, Texas. I have raised my children exclusively in the Manor Independent School District and early on determined that the greatest gift I can give to my children, nieces and nephews was a commitment to education. As a mother of two and an aunt to five highly involved children that attended and graduated from Manor ISD, I began to see at all levels the immediate needs of the district. In 1999, I was elected to the Manor ISD Board of Trustees and in 2008, elected President of the Board. Manor ISD grew exponentially from a district population of approximately 2,500 students attending 5 schools and now with over 7,500 students attending 7 additional schools that were built to meet the challenges of the burgeoning community that resulted from the major employer Samsung Corporation locating in the district in the late 90's. In the 12 years as Board Trustee, I worked with my colleagues to manage multimillion dollar budget to ensure that students and teachers were paired together in new, safe environments that promotes academic growth.

In 2011, I was appointed a director to the Texas Association of School Boards and have attended leadership enhancement training programs. I am also a graduate of "Leadership Austin" and was named by the Austin American Statesman as "One to Watch, Austin New School of Leadership". I am a graduate of Concordia University, as well as attended and graduated from Manor ISD schools. I served in the United States Army and the Texas National Guard.

My plans for this term of office:

This is perhaps the most crucial election in the last ten years. Like so many other school districts across the state, the economy will result in Manor ISD receiving significantly less funding. Experience and insight will make the difference in getting the district through the hard times that will follow. I believe as Manor ISD's Board of Trustee's President, we need a leader who has developed those relationships and contacts to get us through the anticipated budget crisis. The experience and relationships that led to a \$5,000,000 grant from Samsung in 2007, to build New Tech High School is the same type of innovative approaches that is immediately needed to move us forward.

This is not a time to seek change as we are now asked to "buckle down" while getting the job done and proven leadership with demonstrated commitment to education and

this community will ensure that the impending budget crisis will minimally impact how this district does business.

Most importantly when elected, I will continue to support policies and set standards that prepare our students for a world that is evolving with emerging technology, innovation and creativeness through promoting the learning necessary for them to thrive well beyond the classroom. Another issue is ensuring Manor ISD has safe and secure schools and strengthening discipline across the district as well as promoting and seeking traditional and non-traditional approaches to continuing to achieve higher STAARs scores.

For further information:

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