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Place 2 RRISD School Board Trustee Candidate Forum hosted by Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs

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Good evening. And welcome to the Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs school board trustee candidate forum for place two. I am Snehal Phirke the president after Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs a non-commercial non-sectarian non-partisan association that does not endorse any candidate or political party. I would like to welcome our special guests, Texas PTA president Suzi Kennon and Texas PTA president elect Marisol Randle. Thank you for being here today. Our advocacy committee represents all learning communities and the questions for these forums were sourced from our community. As you know PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy organization in the nation with the mission to make every child's potential reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Please allow me to remind our participants that families including children will be watching this forum live as well as recorded. We expect everyone to conduct themselves in a professional manner and be respectful of our volunteers and each other. If we notice a disruptive behavior a warning will be given, and if it continues the behavior will be addressed. We hope everyone will be civil and cordial so that we can have an informative session today. With that I present to you our Council PTA Advocacy Chair Heather Lawrence.

Hello, and thanks to the candidates, viewers and our Round Rock ISD Council volunteers for joining us today. I will also be the timekeeper for today's form. It is my honor to introduce you to our moderator for these forms Mrs. Maria Medina Milner. Mrs. Milner is a notable and accomplished voter engagement and community outreach leader in Central Texas. She leads and develops nonpartisan comprehensive community voter engagement outreach and partnership programs across communities and school districts. She is also the third year founding leader of equity and inclusion at a leading voter engagement organization. As a Latinx cultural consultant Mrs. Milner co-founded Voces Tejas in 2017, presenting regularly on the topic of Latinx voter outreach to communities throughout the Texas Hill Country. She has been a spokesperson and panelist on the topic of voter engagement and history at numerous events often featured as a nonpartisan voter outreach leader on media programs throughout the Austin area and including regular spots on Univision. We thank Mrs Milner for lending her time and expertise to the candidate forums. And with that the candidates are in your good hands, Mrs. Milner.

Thank you to the Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs for the invitation to moderate tonight's forum. I would like to take this moment to remind our audience that when we discuss an office such as School District Board of Trustees that we are discussing down ballot voting. Down ballot voting is the process of voting for offices that are often attached to a major election such as voting for presidential and Congressional offices. I would like to introduce to the to all the candidates for place two. Lacey Mase, Cornell Woodridge and Mary Bone. Candidates will each be given a two-minute candidate statement and a 90-second closing statement. You'll be given one minute to answer each question. Our timekeeper will hold up a yellow card at the 30 second mark and a red card when your time is over. Candidates are asked to refrain from any personal attacks on their opponents. In the event that a candidate loses their web access we ask that they quickly re-enter this forum. After re-entering the webinar, you'll be allowed to answer the questions that you missed time permitting. We will ask the

questions in ballot order and Alternate who begins each time. Let's begin with the two-minute statement from Lacey Mase. Ms Mase?

Good evening. My name is Lacey Mase and I'm running for place two. I'm a former Round Rock ISD first grade teacher, a lawyer for the State of Texas and a senior leader for a large state agency. Most importantly I'm a mom to two boys including a fifth grader at Patsy summer. I'm running for school board because I care deeply about the kids and the teachers of Round Rock ISD and they need trustees who are leaders with the qualifications, experiences and skills to ensure all kids thrive. Our teachers have the support resources and leadership that they need to succeed and our kids have safe quality learning environments. My experience is an educator, attorney, leader and Round Rock ISD mom makes me well equipped to serve as a trustee. My teaching experience gives me the perspective and insight of a teacher which I believe every school board really needs. As an attorney, I'm a critical thinker, a well-trained listener and someone who always thinks and advises about the long-term impacts of current decisions. Currently, I oversee the operations and policies and a 1.4 billion dollar budget for a large organization and I'm required to use good judgment and lead and act with courage in making the organization's most difficult decisions. And as a mom, I have a vested interest in ensuring all of our kids thrive. Our teachers have to support leadership and resources they need and that our kids have safe quality learning environments. RRISD needs a trustee who like me not only understands it but has real experience being a good steward of taxpayer dollars and who has experience with good governance driving positive results. Also, our teachers need quality experience leaders who actually understand what they need to teach all of the kids entrusted to them. I appreciate the Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs not only for hosting this event, but for the outstanding work that they do for Round Rock ISD school community and thanks to everyone watching from home tonight for your engagement and interest ensuring Round Rock ISD has a qualified stable Board of Trustees.

Thank you. Now, we will hear from Cornell Woolridge. Mr. Woolridge, you have two minutes.

Good evening. Since 1994 I've spent most of my life working with and fighting for young people. From underserved middle school students in Austin, to highly intelligent misunderstood early college students and Western Massachusetts, specifically curious and ambitious high school students in Washington DC. In all of my broad experience and education, I've learned many things in the most important lesson I've learned is this: Any student can succeed if given the opportunity and support to do so. This is why I want to serve on a Round Rock ISD board because with all the resources we have there are far too many students who are not being given the opportunity and support needed to succeed. We have black students failing to meet state academic standards. Let alone district averages in every major metric, students with learning disabilities and students receiving ESL education not receiving accountability and transparency from the district when it comes to support. We have already marginalized students being further marginalized by inequitable disciplinary practices. We have the resources to be better, but we need leadership on the board who will demand better. The choice is clear. You can settle for the status quo and leave students behind or we can demand better. If you want change, if you want better, vote Cornell Wooldridge. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Woolridge. And finally Mary Bone. You have two minutes.

Thank you. Hi, I'm Dr. Mary Bone. I have two girls in Round Rock ISD one is in six and one is in ninth grade. And I grew up in a poor rural community in a title one school K through 12. And I grew up with parents that did not have the opportunity to go to college, but they impressed on us that my brother and

I should attend the University after High School. And I also grew up around the Air Force Base where I saw and found my love for anything that flew. So after high school, I went to University and I got a Bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. After that, I went on to work for the Department of Defense contractors and they paid for my masters and system sharing while I worked. Later, I went on to work and also earned my PhD in systems engineering. I am currently Consulting with NASA and working on the moon and Mission to Mars. I'm also I teach in Norway twice a year. I have seen through my education the doors that are opened to higher edges when you have a higher education. And I am running because I want every student in Round Rock ISD to be successful after high school in whatever career path that they choose. My parents instilled in me the desire to serve my community. I have no conflicts of interest. I work for NASA and University in Norway. So I just want to serve every student. I am a team player is required for me in my job. I work with diverse teams. And with my system engineering skills, I have the ability to formalize goals and monitor their success. And I hope you'll vote for Dr. Mary Bone for place two.

Thank you, and thank you all. Let's get on with the questions from the community. The first question for the candidates is what would be your ideal plan for the next three, six, nine months as we navigate education during the pandemic. Mr. Woldridge?

Oh, I would say my first order of business would be to work with the city, the county and all other levels of government to actually try to devise a plan that's going to work for all people because this is not a problem that any District alone can solve. And so we need to get coordination from all sources that have different ideas, have different plans of different functions that can help us actually address this issue. Along with that, I really think that I would work to try to create the safest environment by providing different levels of remote learning for all students while also having that adult supervision so that everybody could be safe and nobody would really have to put their life on the line to try to get the education that they deserve.

All right. Thank you. Miss Bone?

Yes. I would reach out to the community including the teachers and parents and I would do an assessment of what the needs are currently. I think there's been a lot of inputs, but I think that all needs to be gathered up and evaluated and we really need to understand the needs of our community at this time. Once we understand those needs then I would propose that we make a plan for three to six to nine months and I would say that we need contingency plans for all the different situations that could happen. You hear people talk about, you know, what happens if we go through another COVID experience what if we have a bad flu experience, so I really think we need to put in place continuously plans and put together a playbook that has all that in there, so we are ready to go with whatever happens in the next year. Thank you.

Thank you. Miss Mase?

Yes. So first I think that we have to find a way to use the resources that we have right now. And this is for over the next three to six months just to make sure that we are actually delivering services to all of our kids so that none of our kids are being left behind. And I know that the district has attempted to do this as the year has started. I think that there have been problems with the approach and that we really need to revisit and see how we can do a better job. Then we have to start planning for what things are going to look like when all of our kids are finally back in the classroom recognizing that things have

been unstable to say the least for the last, well since March really, and how are we going to plan to meet the kids where they are when they get back in the classroom and how do we prepare our teachers and provide the support and resources that they need for that situation?

Alright. Thank you Ms Mase. We're going to start with the second question. And this will be with Miss Bone to start. Many of our Round Rock ISD families are currently in transition or housing/food insecure. Share with us your thoughts on how to make access to essential services more equitable for all.

Great question. So I would first, I think we have to go to where people need us. So I think we need to meet them where they are. With kids that are in transition or families that are in transition. I think we need to reach out to our community. There's lots of great services that are in our community and I think we need a partner with those. I know actually PTA Council actually has a little bit of play in that so, you know reach out to those folks, but I really think we need to gather our resources and also reach out to our community and reach out to those families that are in transition and food insecure and we make sure that we are supporting them. You know, we make sure that the teachers know in the classroom that the kids that need help are getting the help that they need both with the transition and food and security. Thank you.

Thank you Ms Bone. Ms Mase?

Thank you. So I think that the first thing that we have to do is figure out how we can actually get to the people that need our services. You know one thing that you find, and I found this as a classroom teacher, and sometimes it's difficult to reach parents, especially in homes where you know kids are in transition families are in transition and the parents may not have constant availability and things like that. And so how do we get to those students? And then we have to educate our community so that our families know what services are available and we have to do our best to ensure that they know how to access the resources, who to contact. And what's what's really available to make sure that all of our kids have exactly what they need no matter where they are.

Thank you. Ms Mase. Mr. Woolridge?

Yes, I think of situation like this which is really unprecedented requires an unprecedented, you know response and I think that means literally doing everything we can and things we have not tried before. Which I would say includes using the social workers that we just hired and working with them to find out, hey, where are the sources that are already in different ways trying to support and assist these families. What are they doing? Who are they so we can reach out to them, find out what they're doing and where the gaps are and also work with the social workers to reach out to those families who are most likely to be left out. I also think working with you know businesses, especially restaurants and those places that have not either been able to fully open up or open up period work with them to see if they could help us out whether it be with meals or any kind of resource like that that can help get the resources to those families where they are, as quickly and as efficiently as possible. And I'd also reach out to churches because you've got to reach out to those places in the community that know those people where they are.

Thank you all for your responses. The third question, we ask Ms. Mase to start with. Ms Mase, What are the top three priorities if elected as a school board member?

Thank you for asking that. So my number one priority of course is to ensure that all of our kids and I mean all of our kids at every campus across the district recognizing that every school is different and that every school has different needs and that we, you know, in order to drive student success for every single one of our kiddos and that our teachers have the support and leadership and resources that they need on their campuses and that we're providing quality learning environments by utilizing the resources that we currently have best of our ability. Maximizing those resources. And also strategically planning for future growth and the future needs the district, and then ensuring that we have safe schools for our kids to attend.

Thank you. Ms Bone, would you like to respond?
and Ms Bone?

Hold on technical difficulties. Can you hear me now?
No problem.

Oh, thank you. Yes, so my number one goal when I went, you know, probably before COVID would have been different but my number one goal now would be for COVID. To get the kids back in school to get back to, you know, as normal as possible school, and then virtual education and in person education. But wrapped around that is obviously the education and closing that achievement gaps providing the superior education and making sure that every student is future ready even in this environment. Also safety the mental and health safety has definitely been a conversation and then also equity and making sure that every child in our district has what they need. And then wrapped around that as always financial accountability and then a community voice and giving a voice back to students, parents in the community to engage with the decision makers. So engaging with the board the superintendent to create positive change in our district.

Thank you. Mr. Woolridge?

Yes. My number one priority is to make equity in this district a priority and that goes with everything whether it be education equity with the students, whether it be support equity with the students, or support and resource equity, you know with teachers because while students are obviously suffering in their various ways and have inequities, teachers also are suffering from some of those same inequities while also trying to teach students and so I think equity and us being the most equitable district we can be would be my number one priority. My second priority would be making sure along with equity that we have the most responsible, respectful and supportive, you know, policing and disciplinary policy that we can have because right now it is not equitable and we have students who are already marginalized that are suffering under that policy and we really need to address that. The next thing I want to address would be to make sure that all families are engaged and are consistently engaged because it's those families who have students who are suffering that need to be heard from the most and I want to make sure they are heard from.

Thank you, Mr. Woolridge. And as well, we will be starting the next question with you. As a trustee, how will you support our Title One schools? These schools often have lower parent involvement and higher needs. How might you suggest that we make learning more equitable across the district?

It's a fantastic question. A first we need to know what is and is not going Well. I would say something that we are really suffering from this district is actually looking at those places where we're not doing

well. We want to focus on the good things. We want to ignore the not so good thing. So I would actually work with the Chief Equity Officer to look at our Title One schools and see where are we falling short? Where are we following short with students with teachers and compare them to the other schools to make sure that they are getting the support they need, they are getting everything you need to be able to do well. So that we don't have how one schools versus everyone else. We have a district that's focusing on making sure everybody gets what they need. Not that everybody gets the same.

Thank you Mr. Woolridge. Ms Mase, Would you like to respond?

Yes, thank you. So I think one of the most important things about supporting a title one school is actually knowing what the needs of the campus really are. Because one thing that is true, is that while I've said, already that every campus on our district is different and has different needs, every Title One school has different needs. And so I think it's critically important that we engage the teachers that are on these campuses to learn from them and to understand what they believe the needs of their students are and engage the administrators and the staff on those campuses as well. And then we need to make sure that as we're allocating resources in the district, that you know, each campus is getting the resources that they truly need. Recognizing that some districts may need more of what I'm sorry, once some campuses may need more of one thing then another campus.

Thank you Ms Mase. Would you like to respond, Ms Bone?

I would. This question is close to my heart. Like I said in my intro I was raised K through 12th in a title one school, which is slightly unusual. But there are lots of studies with Title One schools and there's lots of things that can increase equity. Things that we know is in a title one schools experience teachers or something that we can do. Make sure that you know, they've talked about giving teachers more paid to go into these Title One schools and getting those experience teachers there those title one schools. To ensure demographic of students is represented in the teachers. Make sure that we have the different languages represented. If there's different language speakers, make sure they're represented. We need to find out like the other canvas, find out what the families need. We also need to have parental involvement. Find ways to get parents involved. Even Title One schools where I grew up parents wanted to be involved. Sometimes they just need to know how. And also I would also propose that we test all students for TAG. That's also been shown to help Title One schools. I mean identify those kids that are talented and gifted that may not have advocates that would get them tested for TAG. Thank you.

Thank you. Ms. Bone. Likewise as our fifth question, If you'd like to start out with answering that. In 2019 the Board of Trustees approved the creation of the Round Rock ISD Police Department. What do you plan to do to support the district leadership in terms of appropriate tools, training and guidelines for a successful introduction to our campuses?

Yes, in 2019 we do have a police force. And as most people know we do now have a police chief. So as a board of trustee will rely on the police chief to to guide us through this. I would also bring in Wilco and Round Rock PD Chief Banks as I've talked to him and he would like to come in and be involved. It would be great for them to know how we're developing our police department and further involvement in that to make sure that we have communication if the situation does happen that we're already connected into Round Rock PD and Wilco. I would also propose that we separate the powers currently TEA requires that the police be under the superintendent and I would advocate the TEA change that

into the police chief be under the board and so the superintendent can focus on education and The police chief you can focus on on policing our students.

Thank you. Mr. Woolridge?

Yes, I would say that one of the main things that I want to do is a board member, would be to make it so that responsible policing that starts with being student support as opposed to a force that works with force, would be one of the main things I'd really want to do because policing can do real good. And it has got to be founded in support and not in force. I would also want to work again with the Chief Equity officer to coordinate with the chief and make sure they're both together on what's happening, where things are going well, where things are not going well, so that one or both of them can report to the board and let us know where things went well so that if there are anything that need to be addressed we can know that before there is an issue. And we can also be making sure to measure our progress with discipline and with policing with our you know, different standards as far as being a more equitable district and that would be one of the things I'd really want to make sure to happen.

Thank you. And Ms Mase?

Yes. So I think that first the you know, the board will be responsible for ensuring that the police department has policies and that they are aligned with the district's vision and that the policies continue to ensure that, I'm sorry, that there are policies ensure that all of our kids can thrive and that, you know, we're hiring people who have experience in school-based policing. I think that it's critically important that Chief Yarborough continue to work closely with Amy and with the chief Equity officer to ensure that we're building a well-rounded police, you know a school safety program. Because school safety isn't just about a police department. And we have to be addressing, you know, the socio-emotional needs of our kids as well. And as long as they're working together, I think that this can be hugely successful.

Thank you. Miss Mase, we'd like to start the next question with you. The board schools and superintendents evaluation is currently written or significantly based on STAAR test results and the district's A through F State accountability grade. What additional types of goals/expectations do you believe should be evaluated?

That's a great question. I think that you know a huge miss in any school district is to have your goals and policies, you know based completely on the STAAR test. And you're doing a disservice to the teachers, you're doing a disservice to the kids and we can't truly drive student success if we're teaching to a test. So I think we have to look hard at how we can kind of shift our goals and priorities so that our kids are getting a truly well-rounded education in the classroom. That they have many different types of learning opportunities so that you know, they're not showing up to school every day just learning how to take a test and learning content that may be on a test because at the end of the day our kids aren't going to succeed after high school just because they can succeed on the STAAR test.

Thank you Mr. Woolridge, Would you like to respond?

Certainly. Yes, the district should not just be measuring its success by the STAAR test because it's standardized tests and it doesn't really tell you much about how you're doing wholly as a district. So along with the STAAR test, I think we need to one, have measurements of equity so that we know that we are looking for or maintaining all the areas that we affect as a district and that they are serving the students as well as possible. I also think we need to come up with metrics or at least some kind of

goals when it comes to preparing students for the 21st century. Far too often we focus on getting students ready to be an employee which in my opinion is more of a 20th century model. We really need to be working to prepare these students for the 21st century, which is not just standard jobs, but it is being in a workforce and being out in the world in many different ways. And the more we're able to do that the better we are able to serve all the students not just a typical ones, and everything as a district that is all students not just the ones that fit into know are nice boxes.

Thank you, Ms Bone?

Yes. So I think the star test is should like the other candidates have said, it should just be one way that we measure our success as a school district. There's you know many other ways that we should measure and we should come up with those metrics and the STAAR test is something that compares us to all the other schools statewide. So I think you know, we should be a school of innovation and we should look at ways that we could compare ourselves to other schools and and I'd be I I think we should look at how we can come up with a metric. How we can do that and propose that to the state. I think we should work with the state, you know with the STAAR test and you know only use it as one metric. And obviously see how we can close the gaps and replace some of the metrics that are in those A to F ratings. There's more than just the STAAR testing. I know that's part of it, but if you dig into those scores, there is more than just the the star test. And and it looks at you know the gaps between students. That's exactly as Round Rock ISD, we come up with our metrics and propose them back to the state.

Thank you. For our seventh question we'd like to have Mr. Woolridge start our response round. As Round Rock ISD continues to grow what are your thoughts on charter schools and the impact these schools will have on the district?

That's a great question. And you know, I personally, I appreciate the Innovation and different things that are able to, that they're able to happen in charter schools. I think there are any number of things we have learned and any number of again, innovations that have come out of them. However if we're going to have them they need to be measured alongside public schools in the same ways, through my opinion, by the same metrics. Because part of the reason that they're able to have their Innovations are able to you know, find different ways to do things because they have more flexibility. So if we see this working with Charter Schools, I think we need to look and see what we're know doing and how we're measuring things with public education and see how we can, you know, really take off some of the restraints that we have a public education to, you know be able to meet some of those, you know, different needs and different ways. I absolutely welcome Charter Schools. I just welcome them to the table if you measure the same place as a public education

Thank you. Ms Bone. Do you have thoughts?

Yes. I think we should welcome charter schools to our district and I think that you know, I think competition is sometimes only makes us better. So I think we you know, we need to be the School of Choice. We want parents to be choosing Public Schools. So we want you know to to take things that are working for charter schools and Implement those in our public schools. And we need to go out and look and see you know, what needs are our community meeting. You know, what does that need that the charter school is filling and we need to fill that need in our Public Schools. So I I propose that we

just, you know, look at those. You know charter schools and see you know, what students we are are leaving our schools where we missing gaps, and we feel those gaps in our schools.

Thank you. Ms. Mase would you like to respond?

Yes. So I think that it's really important that as a district we ask ourselves why families are choosing charter schools over, you know, the public schools in our district. What is the draw to the charter school, or is it something that we're missing and our public schools? And if it's something that we're not providing we need to figure out why that is and whether you know, whether it's something that's good for all of our kids. And decide, you know, whether there are things that we can adopt from, you know, some of the different Charter School models. I also think it's really important that you know, we I think that you know, some of the charter schools do some really really innovative things and we need to be looking at things like that and make sure that as you know in our schools, we're offering innovative programs to address the learning needs of all of our kids.

Thank you. Now for a budget question, Ms. Bone, the pandemic may be causing several possible budget problems including decreased enrollment as families choose other schools, decreased tax revenue and unexpected district expenses. How would you prioritize next year's budget if cuts are needed?

Yes, great question. So the way that I would prioritize those and I would approach this problem is go do an assessment. Where have we you know it we know where we've lost kids. It's mostly been in the elementary schools are a middle schools in high schools actually are about at I believe it's a 90 and almost 100%. So we have to go into our schools and see you know, where we have lost students. I would say that if cuts have to be made it's not made close to the students that we keep, you know everything as close to the students the same as possible. And so we just really look at you know, we get the data. I like to make data driven decisions. So we we get the data and again, we don't cut things that are at the campus level and we have to look at other places where we can cut and again, this is where innovation comes in we find innovative ways to provide the same high quality education that we always have with any kind of budget cut that has to happen.

Thank you. Ms. Mase?

Yes, anytime you're in a budget crisis so to speak or in a period where you're having to make cuts, you know, the the first thing that you have to do is make sure that you know, you are allocating resources to the things that you absolutely have to have. And once you cover those things and then you kind of go to the next level. It's incredibly important in a budget crunch that you are finding the fluff. So to speak for lack of a more technical term and that you're eliminating as much of that fluff as you possibly can so that you are ensuring that we can absolutely do what we're charged to do, which is to make sure that our kids have a high quality education. And I completely agree with Dr. Bone and I appreciate the way that she put it. That we have to make sure that we're doing that in a way that our kids' education and our kids aren't impacted by it.

Thank you. Mr. Woolridge?

Yes, I agree that we absolutely have to make sure that we determine what are the absolute basics that we must have and make sure that everybody's clear about what those are. Because I think when we

often have an issue where people don't know why district is making decisions that's making it. So once we determine what those basic needs are we make sure that public knows about that. And then after that I'd say it really does start with equity. Will we say? Okay, how do we make sure that all the students in the district get what they need? And what does that look like? How can we do it differently? What are other districts that have had some their budget cuts how have they done it because we don't have to do this alone. We do not have to retreat the wheel. We can look at other examples and use those as inspiration and are you know any kind of cuts that we have to make they do absolutely have to be things we do not essentially need and that hurts students either not at all or as little as possible. And make sure the public knows that any cuts we make are during this time that we will immediately look to refurbish those budget priorities as soon as possible.

Thank you all. Ms Mase, How would you describe transparency in one of the following areas: Finance, student academics or operations?

I guess a pick one? Well I think that so I'll go with finance. How about that? So, transparency as far as finances concerned? I think that you know one thing that you can do that is helpful, I think for any organization is to educate the stakeholders about how the budget is built, where the resources go, in a school district scenario, you know, we could use the bonds for example, and you engage the community on how that money is going to be spent. You educate the public on exactly where that money is going to go and you update your stakeholders. As you know, as time goes on whether that be over the course of a project or over the course of a school year. So I think that you know, as long as you are putting the information out there in a way that people can understand.

Thank you. Ms Mase. Ms Bone?

Sure. I'm actually just gonna answer all three because I think they're all the same. So I think transparency in general one of the ways you can do that is to make the information easier, easy digestible to the folks. We have a current board member that's always thrown out data on her Facebook page and people are able to easily digest that and read it and understand it. I think that's really important for the the district to do. Along with that comes metrics that are meaningful that the constituents and the community understand. I think information having it easy to find, that people don't have to go asking for or looking for it that it's just out there. Easy to search on the web and they can find it and then above all if they do ask for it that the the school district just provide that. So, I think transparency actually is probably one of them the easiest and free things that we could do. The information is there, just make it available and again just make it easy digestible for everybody in the community and again, go and educate the community. Let them know what's going on in the district.

Thank you. Mr. Woolridge?

When it comes transparency, I'll actually agree with Dr. Bone when it comes to transparency because there are ways to address it, you know, overall with all areas and I think The first you've got to let people know where you stand as a district with all the areas. You've got to be honest and clear with where things are going well, where things are not going well and what you're doing to try to get to a place for things are going well. And I think you need to have the information easily available. I don't think it just needs to be with the internet because Even though for most of us internet is pretty ubiquitous. There are a number of people who still don't have consistent access. And so we need to find out what are the ways that people need to get the information so they can have it and have it know

in a way that they'll use it and find different ways to get that information to them. And I think you know lastly as Dr. Bone said if a parent or somebody needs to know information from the district about something especially concerning their student. The district needs to be able to do any and everything possible to get them that information as quickly and effectively as they can.

Thank you. For our last question, we'd like to start with Mr. Woolridge. One of the most important jobs of a trustee is using community input to inform district policy. In what ways if any should the board structure or Community input processes evolve to ensure that the board is capturing input from diverse groups of stakeholders across the entire district?

That's now I love that question. And I love that question because I really want the board to do more to engage all families in all communities. So the thing I'd like to do is make sure that every year, the board is holding different events. Along all of the vertical learning teams in those places to, one, talk about what the board is, to talk about ways to engage the board to find that information from them. What can we do better? How can we better engage with you? Because we don't have all the answers. We're gonna get those from the people who aren't coming to the board meetings and we've got to go out there. We can't expect them to just show up to us. We've got to go to them. And along with that, I really like to use the you know, all the PTAs and find out with them. Hey, who are you not hearing from? Who's not in your groups at your different schools? How can we reach out to them? Because we have PTAs in every school. I think they can be a wonderful resource to engage all of the communities and know use them to actually engage those communities and to school at a broad level.

Thank you. Mr. Bone. Would you like to respond to the last question?

Yes. Getting Community input from device groups, I think one of the first ways we start that is really going out and finding all these community groups that are out there in our community and we can go to the principals. You know, lots of times the principals have invited them already into the schools. I think at the district level we need to know about all these different Community groups and the diversity of our communities and then we need to embrace them as a board. We need to bring them in, we need to make sure they're represented. When I was on the bond Committee in 2018. It was not very diverse. And it not only needs to be diverse, but it needs to be from across the whole District. So we just need to really do a good job of as the board and I would say again it, you know, it comes down to data because that's when the ways that we can actually manage this type of information and make sure that we have some metrics that are showing that we're getting input from all these diverse groups in our community to ensure that we're not missing groups are leaving each other out. And again, I think it's just also having open arms and listen to people. The more you listen to people the more people are willing to come and talk to you.

Thank you. Ms. Mase, Would you like to respond to the last question?

So you know one thing that's been interesting to me about campaigning is that there are so many people in this school district that have no idea what the school district does or, I'm sorry, what the school board does. What the role of the school board is. How you can communicate with the school? and so I you know one thing that I thought about pretty often actually is how do we educate all of our families about how they can engage? How they can have their voices heard and you know, there are things that are appropriate for a school to address, a teacher to address, the principal to address, a counselor to address. We have our area superintendents. But the school board has to be a place where

everyone in our can come and voice their concerns, tell us what we're doing well, and so I think that we have to find ways to you know educate people about how they can communicate with us and then make the communication accessible to everyone.

Thank you candidates for answering these tough questions from across our learning communities. We're now going to have a minute and a half for your closing statements. We'll hold up the same yellow card at 30 seconds remaining and the red card to ask you to stop. We're going to start with Ms Bone Ms Bone. You get the first closing statement.

First I just want to thank you all the PTA Council for holding this and for moderating it. I've been asked the question a lot about what I you know, what do you like about Round Rock ISD? And I keep thinking I just like so many things but what I really love about Round Rock ISD is I love the people. I love the parents and the students. I love the community. I mean hands down that's what I love and the students are our future. I want to support our community. I want to serve our community and I want to do that by equipping our students and ensuring that they all have the resources and support to make every child successful. Again, my priorities are going to be education, closing the achievement gaps, providing superior education and making sure every student is future ready. I'm going to ensure Financial accountability by ensuring our district is a good Steward of tax dollars to provide our children the best education. I'm going to ensure that our children are physically and mentally safe and healthy. I'm going to give the community back the voice. This includes parents, teachers students, the community members. I'm going to give you opportunities to engage with the board, engage with the district and engage with the decision makers to make positive change and the changes that you see that you need for your individual campuses. And I'm going to provide equity for every student in Round Rock ISD. So I thank you again, and I hope that you'll vote for me on November 3rd.

Thank you, Ms. Bone. Mr. Woolridge, Would you like to close?

Absolutely. Thank you so much to Round Rock ISD PTA for the opportunity to share my vision with you and thanks to everyone out there watching for being a part of this process. As I mentioned at the start, there's a clear choice here, the status quo or change. We are only as strong as our weakest places. We get better by addressing those weak places head on, not by ignoring them or trying to minimize them. We must look out and support all students. Even if they don't aren't our own or don't look like us. We must engage all families and communities even if they don't go to the same school or live like us. We must demand better from leadership and ourselves. Even when everything is going fine for us because we would want the same from others if we were suffering. For this to happen, we must make bold choices and reach beyond our comfort zone because that is where excellent awaits. We won't get there by doing we've always done, but by demanding change. My name is Cornell Woolridge and I will be that change. Thank you for your time, and I would be honored by your support.

Thank you Mr. Woolridge. Ms Mase, Would you like to close?

Thank you. I'm running to serve on the school board because I care deeply about the kids and the teachers and Round Rock ISD and I envision a district were all kids thrive, our teachers have the leadership support and resources that they need to provide our students with a world-class education and we have safe quality learning environments for every kid in the district. Our kids and teachers deserve a trustee who's qualified to make hard decisions and has a background that allows her to understand the needs of kids and teachers. As the first grade teacher at Forest North Elementary, I

gained valuable on the ground experience to know what students and teachers need to thrive in the classroom. After being a teacher, I went to law school where I learned to analyze complex issues and work with individuals of differing perspectives to find Common Sense Solutions benefiting everyone involved. These skills continue to help me in my current role where I oversee the operations policies and 1.4 billion dollar budget for a large state agency. And this combination of skills and experiences makes me uniquely qualified to serve this community as a trustee. I'll close with this. I recently received a Facebook comment from a former student who was in my very first first grade class. She let me know that she just passed her absentee ballot for me all the way from, Arizona. It touched my heart and reminded me of why I'm running. Because I love the kids and teachers of Round Rock ISD because I know the impact a world-class education provided by a caring teacher has on a kid and I want every single kid in Round Rock ISD to have that experience. I ask you support me Lacey Mase for Round Rock ISD School Board Place 2.

Thank you to our willing candidates Ms Mase, Mr. Woolridge and Ms Bone for their participation in this voter event. The PTA applauds your willingness to serve the community, schools, parents, teachers, administrators, and students of Round Rock ISD. Please remember that early voting starts on Tuesday, October 13th. And election day is Tuesday, November 3rd. This forum will be posted on the Round Rock Council of PTA's website rrisdpta.org. That's RRISDPTA.ORG and our social media along with other the other place forums as they occur. Candidate bio information will also be posted and following the forums, the candidate will have the opportunity to answer the questions posed to the other place forums in written form. Please watch Facebook for Place 2 which starts at 7 pm and stay tuned for Place 7 tomorrow at 6 pm and Place 6 at 7 pm. That's Place 7 tomorrow at 6 pm and Place 6 at 7 pm. Thank you and good night.