

Let me begin by first thanking the Brenham BISD Board of Trustees for their commitment to serve our community as a Trustee. We know that it requires countless hours of personal time away from family to fully examine the needs within a local school district. It is also important to note that the pastors represented here today do not negate the need for a centralized approach to education and we are aware that the system is designed to meet the needs of many different individuals and families. Another important item to remember in discussing the needs within a community is for individuals to be open to opinions that may differ without moving toward personal attacks and degrading comments. The last year has demonstrated that some have taken to social media to berate those who hold to different possible solutions for the expressed needs within our school district. Furthermore, when individuals express faith in Christ, they are held to a higher standard and should be willing to have their viewpoints evaluated through the lens of biblical values. The pastors who are affiliated with Texas Church Leaders have a vested interest in our community and the condition of Brenham ISD. Some of us have had, or currently do have students enrolled in public education and passionately desire students to have every opportunity for success.

I have been asked to express the “why” behind the felt need for pastors to express concern over the current situation within BISD. The current Board of Trustees, except for Mr. Krenek, based upon the website expressed in 2018, holds to a legislative agenda that does not represent the expressed desire of the community, but rather those of a progressive movement that steers away from parental leadership within the family. Specifically, items 4, 8, and 9. Item 4 asks for state funded support for campus-based mental and behavioral health services for students. This position puts our school district in direct opposition with our state constitution which places the psychological care for children under the supervision of parents and not public education. According to the American Psychological Association, secular therapy does not endorse any counseling that opposes the LGBTQ lifestyle as normal. Therefore, the parent of a student whose faith does not align with that philosophy will find their child subjected to a belief system that contradicts over 2,000 years of traditional biblical values.

Furthermore, items 8 and 9 would remove any possible funding for a parent to find alternative options for their child’s education when they find the academic performance of the school district lacking or moving in a direction that is anti-theologically different from their values. While there are realistic challenges due to state and federal funding, current policies and trends tend to reveal that students and teachers are being set up to fail. Entertaining “woke,” CRT, or other progressive ideologies are unacceptable for those seeking to promote biblical values that helped form the great state of Texas and these United States. Such philosophies are found to be in direct opposition to our faith in Christ which supports the advancement of all individuals based on the content of character and not the color of their skin.

As pastors, we believe it is time for leadership to engage in a leadership that promotes the development of solutions that will facilitate the academic development of our students without having to compromise biblical values. These values helped establish one of the greatest nations in the history of the world. Let’s get back to the basics of education, discipline, and character that leads to success.