



Small Member School Candidate:

Dr. Ken Vaughn

Director, Pineywoods Community Academy

Bio:

Ken began his journey into safety and security as a police officer working with Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas from 1979–1986. This law enforcement experience served as foundational knowledge as he would lead school districts in developing school emergency operations plans. From 1986–1999, Ken preached for several Churches of Christ in Texas, Tennessee, and Indiana. Working as a minister and a police officer, Ken gathered great knowledge concerning working with people.

Ken began his career in education as an eighth grade math teacher in 1999 teaching pre-algebra and eighth grade math at Lamar Consolidated ISD in Rosenberg, Texas. For the next 3 years, he taught math and computer technology. After school, Ken frequently tutored former students that were struggling in Algebra and Geometry in the high school.

In 2001, Ken accepted an assistant principal position. In 2011, Ken interviewed to become the new Principal at Hubbard Middle School in Tyler Texas. He was offered the position; however, he was asked to return for an interview to become the Director of Student Services. It was during the initial interview that his knowledge of security and leadership became evident. In 2011, Ken accepted the director's position and in 2015 he became the Senior Operations Officer, an assistant superintendent level position for Tyler ISD where he led several departments including the Tyler ISD Police Department.

In 2017, Ken became the Superintendent of Pineywoods Community Academy in Lufkin Texas which has been an "A" rated district for 2 years. His leadership platform begins by ensuring that all staff are willing to "excel still more." In 2019, he was awarded his doctorate in educational administration from Texas A&M University Commerce where he submitted his dissertation concerning staff members' perception of safety and security preparation.

Why I am running:

I am the director of Pineywoods Community Academy in Lufkin Texas. I believe that I would be a great addition to the Board as a small school charter school member. I began my career in education in Lamar CISD in Richmond Texas before moving Tyler ISD in Tyler Texas. While in Tyler ISD, I became an assistant superintendent overseeing safety, security, and the operations of the district. My dissertation was on the perception of school teachers on emergency operations preparedness. I have a great deal of experience working with the Texas School Safety Center and have presented at their conference for school resource officers. I have helped schools in Arkansas and Texas with safety plans and completion of their DARS reports. While in Tyler ISD, another responsibility was school board policy. While Legal policy cannot be changed, local policy was written to follow local requirements and preferences.

I met with elected officials at TCSA request when opportunity was made available. I hope that you will consider me as a candidate for this position.