

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2009

Contact: Missy Bender 469-688-8774

Email: missyabender@verizon.net

Missy Bender, first term Trustee of the Plano ISD School Board, today announces her intention to seek re-election for the Place 7 seat. She plans to file papers for her candidacy on Monday, February 9, 2009, and will kick off her re-election campaign with a meet-the-candidate event at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25 at the Art Centre of Plano.

“I am honored to serve as a Plano ISD Trustee and remain committed to preparing students for a successful future within a global economy, creating multiple pathways for all students to achieve, and recruiting and retaining the most highly qualified teachers,” says Bender. “Throughout my first term on the board, I have also demonstrated the importance I place in parent and community involvement in schools, and I am always prepared to listen to citizen input.”

In addition to serving as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Bender’s service to Plano ISD extends far beyond the actions taken in a school board meeting. She visits school campuses, conducts “brown bag” lunch meetings with parents, makes presentations at community organization gatherings, and advocates with legislators. “Missy’s commitment and dedication to the children of Plano ISD is exceptional as she does her homework, makes thoughtful decisions, and makes herself accessible. Her experience and leadership is exactly what we need to lead Plano ISD through challenging economic conditions while maintaining educational excellence,” says Jamie Schell, a previous recipient of the Small Business Person of the Year Award.

During her service on the Board, Bender is especially proud of the school district’s approach to tailoring instruction to each child and to providing students with 21st Century skills that prepare them for a global marketplace. In addition, she touts her leadership in ensuring PISD’s fiscal stewardship that has yielded taxpayers an outstanding value with the lowest school tax rate in Collin County and a Superior financial rating from the state of Texas.

After graduating from Plano schools, Ms. Bender became a first generation college graduate when she earned a bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Southern Methodist University. Before dedicating her service to the community, Missy was a management consultant with IBM Global Services specializing in solving business problems and implementing technology solutions for Fortune 500 companies.

Missy has served on the Board of Directors for the Junior League of Plano, Plano Metro Rotary Club, and Forrest Outreach Foundation. She is a graduate of Leadership Plano Class 23, Leadership St. Andrew, and Leadership TASB (Texas Association of School Boards). She has earned the designation of “Master Trustee” from the Texas Association of School Boards and is a Fellow with the Center for Reform of School Systems. In 2006 she was named as one of “21 Leaders for the 21st Century” by [Inside Collin County Business](#).

Missy has served as a member of the TASB Legislative Advisory Council, the district delegate to the TASB annual conference, the school board liaison to Practical Parent Education and to the Head Start Parent Policy Council. She has also served on Plano ISD's District Based Improvement Committee, a School Based Improvement Committee, as a Plano ISD Key Communicator, a member of the PISD Head Start Task Force, and on the Daffron PTA Board of Directors.

Bender experienced the value of education first-hand and is committed to opening the door to a brighter future for all children. For more information visit www.missybender.org.

- END -