

KATY

Katy Independent School District



The board of trustees act as the school district's policy-making body and serve as representatives for all public education in Katy ISD

Leadership in Education

An inside look at Katy ISD's dedicated board of trustees

Written by Shetye Cypher | Photography courtesy of Katy ISD

As one of the fastest growing communities in the nation, Katy ISD is the perfect combination of long-standing tradition and a cutting edge approach to learning. Through collaboration, commitment, and a desire for greatness, the Katy ISD board of trustees is always striving to provide the best educational experience possible for Katy students.



Bryan Michalsky, President

- Is the CFO of Cotton Holdings Inc.
- Has lived in Katy for six years
- Was a Bearkat cheerleader for Sam Houston State University
- Was elected to the board in May 2012

Both lifelong educators, Bryan Michalsky's parents instilled the importance of a good education early on, which he feels had a huge impact. "I love children, which to me is the first prerequisite to serve on the board," he says. He also truly believes that the board has made strides in engaging the community over the past two years since he has served.

In addition to his passion for education, his professional experience provides him with the knowledge to make sound financial decisions. He loves that Katy ISD provides its students many opportunities to learn and succeed. "From athletics, to fine arts, to FFA, Katy ISD does a remarkable job of educating the whole student and preparing them for a fulfilling life," says Michalsky.



Henry Dibrell, Vice President

- Plays the drums and was in a band that traveled around the U.S.
- Is a licensed minister
- Is a flag football coach at CrossPoint Community Church
- Was elected to the board in May 2011

Henry Dibrell refers to the involvement of parents and community volunteers as the "secret sauce" behind Katy ISD's success. "We have an opportunity in Katy to change the face of education for all young people," he says. "Katy is a great community. We have a bright future. As we continue to grow, we must work together to ensure that greatness continues and is passed down to the next generation."

Dibrell decided to run for the board out of a passion for seeing young people achieve. He believes the board's mission is to make sure every child in the community has access to unparalleled learning experiences. "Education is the great equalizer in our society. In this great nation, if you have a good education and work hard you can achieve great things. The key to the preservation of our liberties is an educated populous," he says.



Rebecca Fox, Secretary

- Served in PTAs, the VIPS executive board, and the Katy Council of PTA executive board
- Has lived in six countries
- Works as a motivational speaker
- Has served on the board since 2004

No matter the strengths, challenges, or interests of students, having talented educators ready to teach and inspire is what Rebecca Fox loves about Katy ISD. "I love children of all

ages and watching them learn new things. Giving them opportunities that meet their individual strengths makes me excited," she says.

Fox could not be more proud of the amazing programs that Katy ISD offers students, from fine arts to special needs. "I have attended countless graduations and shaken thousands of hands, and I still get misty-eyed every time I hear the music as they walk the stage and throw their caps into the air. It's my favorite time of year. I am so proud of them, and happy that they are prepared for the future."



Charles Griffin, Treasurer

- Retired from the U.S. Air Force
- Coached by Gary Joseph at Katy High School
- Third-generation Katy High School graduate
- Elected to the board in May 2012

In Charles Griffin's travels around the world, he has seen the value of a great education. Having lived almost his entire life in Katy, he wants to help restore the trust of the community in the district. "I grew up in Katy and moved back here so my children could have the same great experiences. I wanted to give something back to the district having received so much myself," he says.

Griffin believes that being a leader includes being honest, loyal, steadfast, and of sound character. He feels the current board's vision statement works well. "It was put together by this community and covers all the important needs of our students, community, and the district," he says.



Courtney Doyle, Sergeant-at-Arms

- Mother of six children
- Active in PTA and a community volunteer
- Secretly wants to adopt six more children
- Was elected to the board in May 2014

Courtney Doyle feels she is acutely aware of the importance of all kids being given an opportunity to learn. She felt running for the board was a unique opportunity to add another woman's voice to the leadership. "I want to continue to aid in opening the lines of communication between the district and the community. We not only have to communicate our goals to those who have been in Katy forever, we have to engage and find unique opportunities to communicate effectively to families who are new to the area," she says.

Doyle loves walking the halls of the schools and spending time at extracurricular events. The students brighten her day and her outlook on the future. "Children have a way of sharing hope without even knowing they are doing so. They are innocent, quick to love, quick to laugh, and eager to be great," says Doyle.



Ashley Vann, Member

- Graduate of James E. Taylor High School
- Third-generation community servant
- Vann and her mother were founding members of National Charity League - Katy Chapter
- Was elected to the board in May 2014

Ashley Vann feels that being a Katy resident means that you are a part of something great. "People move to the Katy area for the Katy ISD schools, and I love being a part of this district - its past, its present, and its future," she says.

A James E. Taylor High School graduate, Vann has served in leadership positions for over a decade in KISD. She is a third generation community servant who felt a calling to do more for the school district. "I campaigned honestly and tirelessly. I communicated clearly, and truly committed to do this job with all of my heart the minute I filed," says Vann.

Vann also loves that even though the district is significantly larger than when she was a student, it still feels like a small town. "As a product of public education, I always believed my children would be, too," says Vann. "Education is more than just the classroom. It is hands-on learning outside the four walls of a school building. It is achieved through mentoring, the many co-curricular activities that are available, and the fundamental basis and commitment that exists at home."



Joe M. Adams, Member

- Has been a proud Katyite since 1986
- Has held every board position at least once
- Is a private pilot and owns his own plane
- Has been a board member since 1989

Joe Adams believes that the board's job is managing the district along with the superintendent. He says the board wants to continue to improve the district so all students have opportunities to excel. "Education is important for our students because they are our future. One day they might be my doctor, my mechanic, or even the president of the U. S.," says Adams. "We need to make sure every student is prepared for the next step in life, whatever that might be."

Adams is confident in the opportunities Katy ISD can offer. "I cannot tell you how many times people have told me that their children have done well in college because of the education they received in Katy ISD," says Adams. "We need to be proud of our district, our leadership, administration, and teachers. We are all in this together and it is important for us to be successful." KM



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