

## SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES & ISSUES

I support the following School Board candidates:

Place Three: - **Susan Tolles**

Place Four: - **Jason Buddin**

Place Five: - **Alan Williams**

### Place Three: Vote for Susan Tolles

I have served and worked with Susan for six years. We have had, and continue to have, sometimes profound differences of opinion. Those differences, however, have never been about objectives, just slightly different ways of getting there. She is a solid, fiscally conservative, hard-working, and knowledgeable Board Member who has been a tremendous asset to our District. When all is said and done, we come down on the same side of the fence.

Bob Weest, her opponent, does not measure up. Most offensive, to me, has been his open support of the activities of David Lovelace, which, considering Robin Hood, have cost the taxpayers of the District over Two (2) Million Dollars. In his public comments for over a year now, he has had a great propensity to speak first, loudly and stridently, without apparently anything more than a superficial knowledge of the subject at hand. His campaign comments about eliminating waste, eminent domain, single member districts, dialogue with the public at Board meetings, and closed meetings, all fall into that category, and amount to nothing more than raw hyperbole.

### Place Four: Vote for Jason Buddin

Talk about your  
"demagoguery."

Jason has an outstanding record as President and Chairman of the Board of the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce, has long standing roots in the community, is a fiscal conservative, and generally has all the qualities to make an outstanding member of the School Board. Jason's opponent, David Lovelace, is another matter altogether.

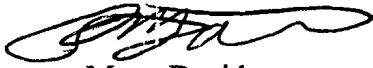
It is difficult to put into words my low opinion of David Lovelace. His actions over the past two years when Robin Hood is taken into account, have cost the taxpayers over Two (2) Million Dollars. He lied in his comments recently to the Breakfast Club when he stated that the District website showed taxes on the average home were going up by \$144 in 2007 (taxes are actually expected to decline on the average home by about \$500 this year, and to remain lower than in 2006 for 2 more years). He engaged in demagoguery by claiming there that the District was going to "steal" privately owned real property (disregarding the pejorative "steal", there are absolutely no eminent domain proposals on the table). Lovelace is also demagoging the Homestead Exemption matter (there is absolutely no threat to our local 20% Homestead Exemption). I could go on. Mr. Lovelace is totally disqualified by his actions and temperament from sitting on our School Board. I have attached a copy of a letter I recently submitted to the Lake Travis View which goes into more detail.

See the last page for a copy of the LTISD web page which I used. Hardly a lie. Mayo, let's not let the facts get in the way of good fiction!

**Place Five:    **Vote for Alan Williams****

Alan is a long time resident of this area with an extended history of public service. Many of you know Alan as I do, and know him to be an outstanding individual who will dedicate himself to his services on the School Board.

Alan's opponents, Carol Johnson and Paul Hendricks, are more recent residents without any real experience to qualify them for the School Board. I am most disturbed by the two of them associating themselves with the Lovelace and Weest campaigns, and making similar proposals without any real understanding of the subject matter. Pot shots are always easy to take. They would appear to be coming in with an agenda, which is never a good reason to run for School Board, and are making promises which they will never be able to keep.



Mayo Davidson

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO: Editor, Lake Travis View

DATE: April 15, 2007

Mayo should provide the facts to back up his claims! I bet he can't do it!

**David Lovelace, a candidate for the School Board, has carried on a Vendetta against the School District that has cost you, the taxpayers, at least 2 Million Dollars.** Bob Weest, another candidate for the School Board, has applauded such actions. Before you vote, you should know the extent, and the monetary and human costs, of these activities.

Since 6/20/05, Lovelace and his wife have filed 2,884 public information requests. In addition they have filed 49 complaint letters and 77 local policy grievances. They have filed several complaints with the Attorney General and one with the Office of Civil Rights. They have also filed approximately 10 complaints against the District with the Texas Education Agency. Most egregiously, they have filed 13 Code of Ethics complaints, which are direct personal attacks upon the professional accreditations and reputations of district staff members, and threaten their livelihoods.

The monetary cost in staff time and direct expense is unbelievable. A separate response has to be made to each PIA request, files and records searched, each page of every document requested reviewed, and often legal counsel consulted and opinions from the Attorney General obtained. There is a 10 day time limit for response, and Lovelace cannot legally be asked why he wants the documents. Every complaint letter must be investigated, involved staff interviewed, and an analysis prepared, often after legal consultation. Local grievances require even more detailed investigation, preparation of reports, administrative hearings, and often a hearing before the Board itself. The complaints to the Texas Education Agency require additional days and weeks of preparation and hearings, and engagement of legal counsel. Worst of all, the Lovelace Vendetta has taken an inconceivably heavy toll on the morale and peace of mind of the District's professional staff. They labor daily dedicating their lives to educating our children, and it is discouraging in the extreme to them to see such vast amounts of their time and the taxpayers money being wasted. The total prorated cost of staff time, legal expenses, and other direct costs is well over One Million Dollars, and, because of Robin Hood, the District has been required to generate over Two Million Dollars in tax revenues to pay for it. We have far better uses for this staff time and money, including lower taxes.

The question arises whether the District has committed some grievous sin against Lovelace which would explain his Vendetta? Absent such a sin, if might be thought, no reasonable, rational or objective person would engage in such activities. In fact, the School District has done absolutely nothing which any reasonable, rational or objective person could feel justifies the Lovelace attacks. Lovelace and his cohorts, however, are hiding behind a veil of secrecy and privacy that the law affords him, standing off and taking potshots at the District, the School Board, and the Administration. They know full well that their statements, which continually misrepresent and distort facts, cannot be challenged without violating such privacy laws. Now that Lovelace is running for School Board, he needs to waive his privacy shield and allow full disclosure of all of the facts.

We have three exceptionally well qualified candidates, Susan Tolles and Jason Buddin for Places 3 and 4, as well as Alan Williams for Place 5, and these are the candidates who deserve your vote.

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## Finance & Support Services

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- Tax Notice

Lake Travis ISD adopted a tax rate that will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's rate. The tax rate will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$0.00.

The State Legislature has mandated the publication of this statement. The statement relates only to the maintenance and operations (M&O) portion of the tax rate. It does not address the debt service portion of the tax rate, nor does it address any change in taxable value of a home. The debt service rate is used for payment of bonds authorized by the voters of the district.

The Board of Trustees has adopted a total tax rate of \$1.6186, of which \$1.3700 is for M&O and \$0.2486 is for debt service. The M&O rate is less than last year's M&O rate of \$1.5000. The debt service rate is also less than last year's debt service rate of \$0.3005. The 2006-07 M&O tax bill impact on a \$100,000 value home decreased by \$16.00.

Based on the information in our "Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate" published in the *Lake Travis View* on August 10, 2006, the average taxable value of a residence in the district last year was \$227,619. This year, the average taxable value of a residence is \$262,153. The increase in value, along with the decrease in tax rate, will raise taxes by \$144.93 this year for the average value homestead.

This the the text from the LTISD web site which I quoted

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