



Ajit Purandare

Admin · October 17 at 2:39 PM · 🌐

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When a former board member and councilman reached out to the GCISD Board of Trustees with ideas and requested to work as a team, this is how Trustee Pontillo and Trustee Spradley responded. See comments for Councilman Leal's original letter.

Leon Leal

From: A.J. Pontillo - aj.pontillo@gcisd.net
Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 6:56 AM
To: Leon Leal
Cc: Brad Schrautz; Paula Barbanou; shannon.braun@gcisd.net; dalia.legel@gcisd.net; matthew.flood@gcisd.net; kathy.spradley@gcisd.net; donna.sage@gcisd.net; mary.humphrey@gcisd.net
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Letter to GCISD

Leon,

While your letter may appear well-intentioned on the surface, it is difficult to overlook that it is from someone who played a central role in spreading misinformation and intentionally divided our community for personal and political gain.

The attempt to new position oneself as a unifier and voice of reason is both insincere and self-serving. This letter does not reflect genuine concern for the students, families, or staff of GCISD; rather, it reads as an effort to appear magnanimous and to regain relevance through self-gratifying rhetoric aimed at political gain.

The harm caused by ALL those who deliberately undermined trust and fueled discord cannot be erased by empty gestures or carefully worded statements. True leadership requires honesty, accountability, and consistency, qualities that have been notably absent from the actions of several "leaders" that contributed to the divisions we are working to repair.

As I have told you before, my goal is not self-preservation or positioning for some public office. My only focus is doing what is right, ensuring the long-term viability and success of our district and community. That is exactly the path we are on, and we will continue to make decisions grounded in truth, transparency, and the best interests of our students, staff and families, not what is politically advantageous.

Our community deserves sincerity and integrity, not opportunistic attempts to rewrite history or rehabilitate one's image through performative outreach.

A.J. Pontillo
 Board of Trustees, Place 5

Leon Leal

From: Kathy Spradley - kathy.spradley@gcisd.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 5:52 PM
To: Leon Leal
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Letter to GCISD

Leon,

I appreciate your past service to GCISD and your continued interest in our schools. That said, your recent letter contains multiple inaccuracies and misrepresentations of both the district's current situation and the work being done by today's board and administration.

You no longer serve on the GCISD Board of Trustees, and your attempt to insert yourself into district matters—while framing it as a "call to action"—is not helpful. Even more concerning is the continued pattern of selectively leaking information and sharing internal discussions publicly in an effort to discredit staff and trustees. This behavior does not serve our students, our employees, or the community you once represented.

GCISD faces real challenges, and the current board is addressing them courageously, transparently, and with accountability. We welcome differing perspectives, but productive dialogue requires honesty, accuracy, and respect for process.

I would encourage you to allow the elected board and administration to do the work entrusted to them by this community—without interference, misrepresentation, or divisive rhetoric.

At this point, you are choosing to divide a district and that is choosing to harm it and that's a choice I won't stand by quietly for.

Regards,
 Kathy

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46 comments

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Cameron McCartha

I have known Leon Leal for over 25 years. He is a man who has consistently listened to all sides of every issue while on GCISD school board. Because of his outstanding service I supported him in his bid for city counsel. He has continued leading by thoughtful consideration of all the citizen voices in Grapevine. He conducts himself professionally, personally and through all official communications. He is not a self promoter or self seeker. If Leon has concerns or suggestions regarding the school district or city then he should be recognized and respected as a proven leader and problem solver.

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Ellena Turner Lee