

## Interview Assessment #1

**Name of Professional:** Tracy Gamble

**Profession:** Marketing and Campaign Strategy Consultant

**Company:** Gamble Media Group

**Date of Interview:** 6/18/2021

### **Assessment:**

During the summer, I had met with one of my past interviewees from ISM 1, Tracy Gamble. The purpose of this meeting was to meet and discuss our goals for this year in ISM 2 and any other questions I had about the campaigns I had worked on over the summer and the college admissions process. We had met at UP kitchen in Frisco to discuss everything over breakfast. Tracy also had a few exciting ideas and things currently in the works that she wanted me to be a part of.

The first thing we talked about was the campaign we both worked on over the summer and my first school board meeting that also happened to be the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the Fisd Trustee Board. Previously most of my community engagement and experience with the trustee board was contained to small groups and campaign-related events, so this was my first time experiencing the open forum type of discussion where community members and parents all came together to express their concerns and thoughts. Though that may be what school board meetings are for, it's not exactly what I experienced. Most of the ideas that were expressed at the meeting came from people who weren't even parents or staff associated with the district. This came in the form of Kevin Whitt who was an ex-staff member in Austin who was fired for posting false information on the January 6th insurrection and voicing thoughts in favor of the Q-Anon conspiracy. Instead of actually speaking on anything relevant to Fisd he spent his time voicing anti-LGBT ideas and saying how "The LGBT Mafia" was after him. Mr. Whitt was one of many questionable individuals who spoke at that meeting. The meeting eventually broke into an uproar because of the unruly speakers. This led to ending public comment early and several people being kicked out of the administration building. Mrs. Gamble assured me that that is not how most board meetings go but in recent months that tends to be how events pan out. This isn't just a phenomenon in Fisd but this has been happening all over the country. Just recently there was a news story I saw about a school board meeting in Virginia where it broke out into violence and insanity.

Next, we talked about my plans for this year and what colleges I planned on applying for. The biggest goal I had told Mrs. Gamble about was that I really wanted to have another Austin capitol trip with her and Mr. Lee during October because of the special session. Last year I was extremely lucky to experience a traditional day in session, because it was an odd number year but this year is a redistricting year since the 2020 census data was just released. This means new congressional district boundaries are being redrawn and I would really like to witness that firsthand and see

what really goes into the process. We both still need to meet with Mr. Lee but we do believe it is possible for another trip fairly soon. We also talked about any ideas I had for my original work and final product for this year. We ran through a few different ideas but eventually landed on an academic essay looking at how voter ideals and social tendencies have changed in north Texas cities in that last decade. I would accomplish this by looking at municipal elections in five North Texas counties from 2009- 2019 and seeing which elections went to run-offs and in which runoffs did the more conservative or liberal candidate win. This would allow me to compare the turnout rates for the initial elections to the runoff and see whether more liberal or conservative citizens tend to go to the polls for low-level elections. There are a few different topics I would like to also explore with this project but that is the primary goal of the investigation.

After we hashed out the details of the project we discussed my plans for college and that ultimately ended in me asking her to write me a letter of recommendation for The University of Texas at Austin since she is an Alumni. I'm really thankful she agreed to write it for me and I'm very excited to be working closely with her this year. She was a massive help last year and I can't wait to see the work we'll complete this year as well.