

OREGON-DAVIS SCHOOL CORPORATION

Thursday, February 17, 2022
Special School Board Meeting, 6:00 PM

Humanities Room, Jr/Sr High School, 5990 North 750 East, Hamlet, IN 46532

The Board of School Trustees of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation met in a Special Work Session on Thursday evening, February 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Humanities Room of the Jr/Sr High School.

1. Meeting Opening

1.01 Call to Order: Kyle Hinds, Brandie Ecker, Ben Lady, Lee Nagai

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

1.03 Roll Call

1.04 Work Session: Interviews to fill Board Vacancy

Mr. Hinds set forth the procedure. The questions are as follows:

1. What experiences do you have that would make you good candidate for this board?
2. What are a couple of things you would like to see Oregon-Davis focusing on in the future?
3. This appointment to the board would end January 2023, do you intend to run for the school board this fall?
4. What do you feel is the role of a school board member if your were to serve on this board?
5. In your mind, what are the two biggest issues you see facing Oregon-Davis Schools in the future. What ideas do you have to help alleviate some of these issues?
6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

First Candidate – Jack Awald

1. Experiences: Served on school board for 12 years, went to state conventions and meetings. President of the board for 5 years. Three senior board members mentored him when he was new to the board. Can work with almost anyone. Does not shoot off the hip likes to here all opinions. Knows the chain of command and how it works.
2. Focus: Would like to see focus on curriculum if money was available. Need to do things with the staff and curriculum to help retain students.
3. Term: He just wants to finish the open term. Does not intend to run again.
4. Role-to hire the best superintendent you can and let him maintain buildings and everything. Board needs to see that finances are there and that everything is done legally. Number one priority is to make sure the education of the children is first.

5. Issues: Student count, teacher retention. Would like to see staff from both buildings be in cooperation with each other.
6. Offers older experience. Will not try to railroad anyone to believe something. Does not want to be a split board wants to be on a board that works together. Thanked them for allowing him to share his opinion.

Second Candidate – Justin Cartier

1. Experience: Has leadership positions in career. Has forced him to learn to make decisions.
2. Focus: Would like to see research on why so many families take their students to neighboring school districts. Retaining more students would allow us to offer more sports that are participated in other schools. Playground upgrade-set goals to achieve.
3. Term: His intentions to run would depend on how he gets on with the board. He feels he could be effective and if that would be the case he would run.
4. Role: decision making, weigh desires and what can be accomplished. Good decisions about curriculum, budget and how the schools should run without politics or personal opinions factoring in.
5. Two biggest issues – retention, student and faculty. Need to find ways to make people feel good about the job that they are doing. Set higher standards for students, challenge students, and limit elearning days.
6. Motivated, honest, vocal will share opinion, good decision maker.

Third Candidate – Kurt Hayes

1. Experiences. Spent 8 years on the board previously worked with three current members
2. Focus. Would like to see getting more kids back to OD, retain teachers, retain non-certified staff also. Would like to see programs, vocational added if we had teachers to man them.
3. Term: Yes he would run for board again.
4. Role: help superintendent and guide him. The Board does not run the school, superintendent does and the board guides him.
5. Issues: Retention of students, in curriculum find how to offer items that others do or do not that will attract students.
6. His record as a school board member should stand for itself as far as he is concerned. He will not back down on what he believes in if it is for the good of the community and school.

Fourth candidate – Lynee Kajer

1. Experiences: Worked in retail so she has worked with people and has managed budgets,
2. Focus: Staying open, keep clubs running, different curriculum offerings.
3. Term: yes
4. Role: Keeping up with the community-staying connected to them
5. Issues: Enrollment is an issue.
6. Has coached, done community work.

Fifth candidate – Tom Lewis

1. Experiences: Served on board of directors for Kingsbury Little League. Operations manager for Cargo in Chicago dealing with personnel issues etc.
2. Focus: preparing kids for anything outside of college. Wants to see kids prepared for more than attending college.
3. Term: Right now he would say yes.
4. Role: to ensure school corporation as a whole is trending in the right direction, bringing on and retaining not only qualified professionals but people who are engaged with the kids, that care. Keeping kids best interest at heart and giving them the tools needed to be successful.
5. Issues: rural school funding is a constant issue. Keeping things in line with the community expectations without sacrificing kids. Doing more with what we have and to remember the end goal. Have a long-term plan and stick to it.
6. Firm believer in traditional values that start at home and based on faith.

Sixth candidate – Terry Minix

1. Experiences: Level headed, been on the board before, wants what is best for the community. Thinks outside of the box. Think of ways and things to do to get kids here.
2. Focus: Ideas to attract kids, wants to be ahead of everyone else and find out why we lost kids and attract new kids.
3. Term: yes
4. Role: set policies, hire administrators and let them do their job, hold them accountable, try to recruit people, kids and staff
5. Issues: lack of kids, housing is an issue, maybe have homes built to attract younger parents with kids. Would like to see metal detectors in the doors of the schools.
6. Running this fall and wants what is best for our community, he is die-hard Oregon-Davis.

Seventh candidate – Justin Risner

1. Experiences: has attended many school board meetings, city and county meetings, has children and has interest as a parent. Not much experience on budgets.
2. Focus: Get back to basics, less technology, more books and worksheets. Retaining students and teachers, become more transparent and find more parent involvement.
3. Term: yes
4. Role: School board are the gate keepers of the school- their responsibility to know what teachers are teaching.
5. Issues: How to retain teachers, vetting teachers more, lack of textbooks (social studies) would like to see more pen and paper work
6. Has worked hard his entire life, born leader, teach kids in ministry at church, ran for Warsaw city council.

2. Future Meetings:

2.01 Board Meeting: February 28, 2022

3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.