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Two vie for Sandy High board position

Sandy High is on course

Terry Lenchitsky likes to talk about jobs.

He has visited U.S. Metals, and has seen a number of Sandy High School graduates there, many of them about his son's age.

A past president of the Kiwanis Club of Sandy, Lenchitsky is proud of the club's job mentor program, where students get an opportunity to work in fields in which they have an interest. Lenchitsky is a board member for the newly-formed Sandy Job Club, which he hopes will help find employment for young dropouts.

Lenchitsky said a strong academic program is already in place for college-bound students. "What I believe is that it's there if they want it," he said, adding that he has known students who have gone on to outstanding accomplishments.

Lenchitsky is the service manager of Diamond Fuel in Portland. He has had two children graduate from SUHS, one is currently a junior and one is an eighth grader.

Lenchitsky has served on the board for four years, and is currently chairman. He has served for six years on an advisory committee to the vocational education department, and he has been on the budget committee for six years.

Asked to list accomplishments, he mentioned the closed campus, increased enrollment in classes for college-bound students, improved SAT scores, an increasing number of scholarships (as well as increasing dollar amounts), an emphasis on vocational education and, "as a whole, good, motivated teachers."

His opponent, Roland Cartisser, said funding for vocational education is down 12 percent. Lenchitsky said he doesn't know where that figure comes from, but the charge that he does not support vocational education puzzles him. He feels he has been a strong supporter of the program.

(According to Angus Anderson, business manager, the district budgeted for two teachers in the vocational education department. One received another job and the position was not filled. To make the budget more accurately reflect what was in it, half of one teacher's salary was added to the math department's budget because he teaches personal finance half a day.)

Enrollment in vocational education and agriculture is up, Lenchitsky said.

Vocational education, Lenchitsky pointed out, is an expensive area. It is also one where non-college bound students can find jobs, he said.

He also feels students should get a good, basic education. He told a group of teachers and other citizens last week that he feels every high school student should attend from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. all school year for four years.

Cartisser mentioned at the same forum that he has had problems with Sandy High students who have applied for jobs in the apprenticeship program for electricians. The students weren't able to spell even simple words, Cartisser said.

Lenchitsky said that a program instituted only a couple of years ago was helping with that. Students were learning to write in all of their classes through the Write Across The Curriculum program.

Lenchitsky keeps coming back to his theme; the programs are there for the student who wants an education.

Lenchitsky also defends athletics and activities as confidence builders that are an important part of the process. If you let the students out and lock the doors at 2:30, he said, "it might be a good idea to hire a few more policemen."

He feels that young people can learn values in high school — and in



Terry Lenchitsky

fact feels that teachers often provide valuable guidance to students.

He would like more participation by parents. He was one of the founders of the Sandy High School Booster Club, and he knows how hard it is to get people involved.

On a petition presented to the board Monday night, which calls for a \$1.5 million limit to the tax base — versus \$3.4 million being proposed — Lenchitsky just shakes his head. "They're full of beans," he said. He claims it is not possible to run a standardized program on that amount of money, and if the district fails to run a standardized program, according to state specifications, the district will also lose the state's \$1.5 million in basic school support.

In addition, he points out, one of the most popular and saleable programs is also the most expensive — vocational education.

People who know Terry Lenchitsky know he can be described as enthusiastic. People's attitudes toward Sandy High School have changed in the past few years, he believes.

"I would like to continue the progress that's being made in the district."

Affordable education is goal

Roland Cartisser believes in education. He wants the Sandy High School District to have a reasonable tax base so that patrons are not threatened each year by the prospect of school closure.

The tax base measure approved earlier this week by the board of directors, however, is not what he had in mind.

"I would like to work to get a tax base citizens feel they can live with," he said, adding that that is not the case with the present tax base proposal.

Students have the opportunity to take too many electives, Cartisser believes. Art, photography and some club activities could be cut, Cartisser said. In a position statement given to The Post, he said he would not cut the athletic program but would "cut the cost to taxpayers who may not have participating students in the athletic programs."

Cartisser signed a petition that was presented to the SUHS board of directors Monday evening calling for a limit on the tax base of \$1.5 million. The proposed tax base is \$3.4 million, and the district receives another approximately \$1.5 million from state basic school support, with a total general fund levy of \$4.9 million.

Cartisser told The Post that he does not believe \$1.9 million could be cut from the budget, but that a dramatic gesture was needed to get the board's attention.

I felt it was the only way to get them "back to the drawing board, get something that we could live with," he said.

Monday evening he told the board, "The budget does not address the concerns of district patrons who have testified at the public hearings before you and the budget committee you

have appointed to help you prepare a budget package. You have entertained the taxpayers by allowing them to testify. However, their testimony appears to have fallen on deaf ears."

Cartisser also told the board the present budget could be cut 20 percent and still provide a good, solid education and prepare students to enter the job market and obtain good jobs.

Cartisser told The Post he is not pleased with the way the board is running the district. "At present, my observations are that the administration tells the board only what they want them to hear and anything controversial is kept from the board members and also the citizens."

Cartisser said he would like to hear more questions asked of members of the administration.

Cartisser also has some goals that go beyond what a board member could do. He is a member of COST, a Portland group seeking to change the state's tax structure.

Cartisser is corporate president of Tri-County Electric, a Sandy-based business. He is director of the statewide organization of Independent Electrical Contractors, and is an officer in the chapter that takes in the northwest corner of the state. He also serves on the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee for Inside Wiremen, Oregon State Bureau of Labor Apprenticeship Training Division.

"Basically, I'm trying to make my trade a better trade to be in," he said.

Cartisser also is a team member for the East Multnomah County Y.M.C.A., and is raising money for programs such as sexual abuse prevention, Big Brother, Big Sister and athletic activities. His official goal is \$350, but he said he intends to



Roland Cartisser

raise as much as \$1,000.

He is a member of the Gresham Elks Lodge, Good Shepherd Community Church, city of Sandy Building Codes Board of Appeal, and is a committee person on the Republican Central Committee.

He has an associate's degree in electronics, and has taken classes in management and the social sciences as well, he said. He is a graduate of the FBI Academy, having worked in law enforcement for 5½ years.

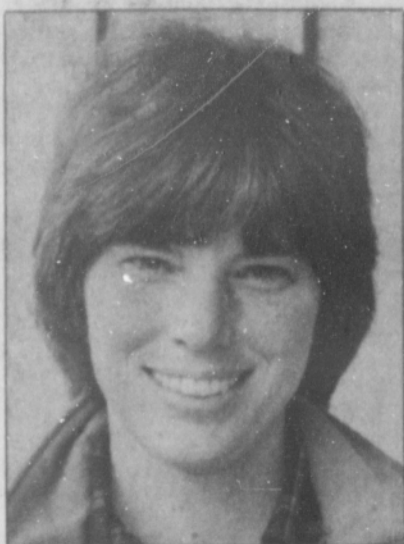
His son graduated from Sandy High School, and he has had foster children attend SUHS.

In his office at Tri-County Electric, he is surrounded by calculators, citizens band radios, telephones and other items.

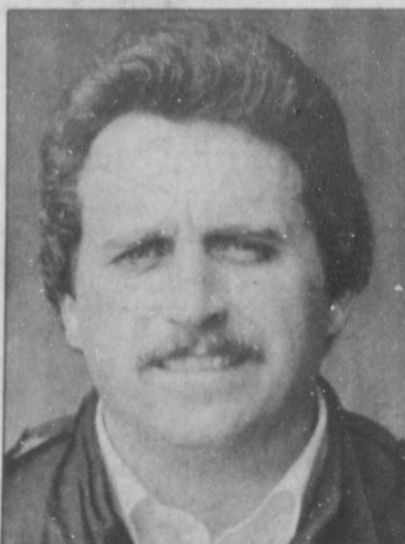
A graduate of Corbett High School, he said he enjoyed his high school experience and would not deny a similar educational experience to Sandy youngsters.

"I feel that my interest for the district taxpayers, students and residents are again to achieve a quality education for our children at the lowest cost to our taxpayers with no waste."

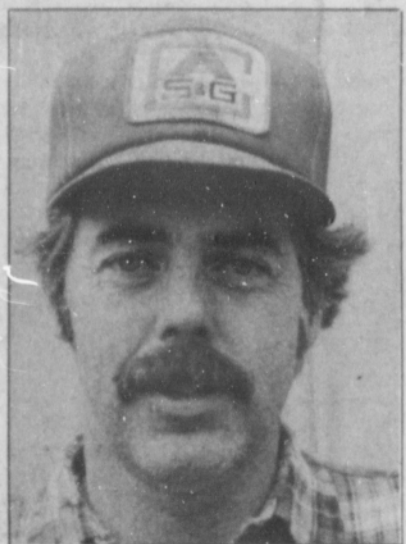
Welches School, position 5



Mary Ann Burke



Jeff Whitacre



Don Thornberg

Three vie for one-year term

Mary Ann Burke knows a little bit about involvement. With five children, the former president of the Mt. Hood Preschool Cooperative put in her time. "I hold the record, 10 years in preschool," she joked.

She currently has three children at Welches School and two at private schools.

A 15-year resident and certified teacher, she said she supports a strong academic program.

"I disagree with the advisory committee's recommendation for more remedial help as a top priority. We are fortunate to have small classes and a qualified staff. With improved curriculum, and scope and sequence, we could alleviate some of the remedial programs."

"I don't like removing students from the classroom."

Burke would also like to see the atmosphere improved at the upper building. Students need a more "supportive environment," she said.

She has been attending board meetings regularly for a couple of years and believes she knows the issues. "I would work toward a more positive relationship between the school board and parents. Parental input should be welcomed, not discouraged."

Burke has worked as a substitute at Welches School in the past, but has not done so for a couple of years.

She feels she understands the point of view of both parents and teachers. She believes she has done the leg work, and now it is time to get involved in the decision making. "I would like to be on the other side of the table."

If a person has expectations for a school, the way to make sure that school meets those expectations is to be involved. At least that is Jeff Whitacre's attitude.

Whitacre, a clerk at Hoodland Thriftway with about nine years of experience in the grocery business, has two children attending Welches School.

He ran at the urging of friends, and his goal is to try to serve as a liaison between administrators, teachers and taxpayers. There has been a lot of hostility expressed at local board meetings, he said.

"I'm a Christian, and I have some problems with value teachings," he said. Though he doesn't think there is a problem at Welches, he sees a need to be involved.

"I want to be involved in the policy-making process, where I feel I can have a positive input and help our kids."

He said he has no axe to grind, only "minor concerns."

"Overall, I believe we have a good school and some fine teachers. There are no real major problems, but I think there are things we can improve on."

Whitacre has served for about five years either on the board of deacons or the board of elders at the Mt. Hood Evangelical Free Church. He and his wife led a youth group at the church for about two years.

This past winter he has been involved in a youth skiing program that was run independently of Welches School. Many of the youngsters who participated, however, attend school there.

Don Thornberg feels that Welches School is headed in the right direction. He would like to do his part in keeping it that way.

"I don't want to see a change of directions. I'd like to see it stay the way it's going."

The administration is doing a good job and students are getting a good education, he said.

Thornberg is a partner in Thornberg Construction in Sandy, a business that puts in underground utilities and water and sewer lines.

He has served on the board for eight years, and is currently filling out a term. He has one child in the sixth grade and another in second grade.

Thornberg admits there are some problems with the curriculum, but he said it is the board's goal to get those problems worked out. The math program is currently being revamped, and the language arts program is next for consideration.

The school has some "excellent teachers," he added. "I think the teachers make up for the lack of curriculum we have now."

Accomplishments in recent years include passage of a tax base, development of a good staff and administration, and a good computer education program.

He said they currently have good leadership on the board. "We have five individual people with a similar goal: The best education kids can get."

He considers himself a fiscal conservative, but said they do need to consider teachers' pay.

Welches School, position 4



Marilyn Leslie



Cliff Walters



Dan Boland

Three vie for four-year term

Marilyn Leslie said a high quality academic program would be her priority if elected to position 4 on the Welches School board of directors.

Leslie, of Rhododendron, has been a realtor with Stan Wiley Realtors for about a year. She has three children, two of whom attend school at Welches. The third is 5.

She said a good deal of her energy would go toward improving the school's academic program. She wants Welches School students to have a smooth transition from Welches to Sandy High School.

"Feeder schools need to coordinate their efforts to help our kids do better at the high school," she said, adding that the dropout rate at Sandy High School disturbs her. There may be some social elements involved in helping Welches students adapt to Sandy High School, but academics — at least for now — is where Leslie said she would concentrate her energies.

Leslie said she does not feel the schools should try to teach values. "Schools have dissipated in all directions. You have to have a strong academic program. The school can't substitute for parents."

Leslie has lived in the district nine years. She is a member of the budget committee and was involved with the Mt. Hood Preschool Cooperative for six years. She was one of the founding members of the Mt. Hood Citizen Planning Organization.

"I feel I'm an informed enough person that I can look at all sides of an issue and make a good decision," she said.

Cliff Walters has as good a reason as anyone for wanting to serve on the Welches School board of directors. "I've got more kids than anybody else."

Walters, truck salesman for Suburban Ford in Sandy, adopted his cousin's four children when their parents were killed in an automobile accident. He and his wife have six children.

Walters said a number of parents have been pushing for a tougher curriculum, and he sees the board and administration responding. "They're moving in a positive way right now," Walters said. "I think the board and administration are listening."

Walters said value systems and judgments are being taught, to an extent, at Welches School, but that it is not a problem. "I don't think there's a problem at all."

There is a gap at Welches School, he said. Students seem to do either pretty well or not so well. He would like to work toward improving the skills and self-esteem of less successful students.

He is on the board of deacons at the Mt. Hood Evangelical Free Church, and tutors children in good studying habits two afternoons a week.

The sessions on study habits began when he saw a need among students, and the administration gave him the go-ahead. He and Vicki Kramer share the responsibilities.

He has coached softball and baseball. A few years ago he took a team with a 1-21 record, turned it around the next season and won the Tri-County championship in junior division boys baseball.

Don Boland has four reasons for running for the board of directors. "That's the main reason I'm running. I'll have kids in school soon, and I feel it's time to get involved."

Boland is a systems analyst for Consolidated Freightways in Portland. His job includes designing and implementing business systems.

He has about 17 years of experience in the data processing field, including work designing business systems for county governments. He has also worked for Mt. Hood Community College.

"You should be concerned about the environment your children are educated in," he said.

He has heard some talk about the dropout rate, and is aware of some other controversies. As a member of the board, he feels it would be necessary to develop a plan to address problems over a period of time.

He said he would have to know the specifics before he could comment on certain problems. He has attended a couple of board meetings but does not attend regularly, he said.

He feels it is the board's function to administer to the business aspects of the district. The board should "advise on curriculum and plans, but unless you're an expert it's hard to be tuned into that."

He feels it is important for young people to learn good communications skills. And, even with calculators and computers, he hopes students are still learning basic principals, such as the rudiments of arithmetic, for example.