

School board: Candidates for Positions 1-2 discuss priorities, including after the pandemic

Continued from P1

"Our kids have been through trauma," said Hunter, 46. "We need to prioritize individual attention, especially for kids who have not done well."

Teachers' mental health is also something Hunter worries about. If elected, she'd push for providing counseling for teachers, donating spa gift cards and enforcing a more reasonable work-life balance.

"I think it should be normalized that teachers don't work evenings and weekends," Hunter said.

One of Hunter's strengths is her drive to connect with the Redmond community and bring their ideas to the table, she said.

"I have been a bridge-builder for 20 years," she said. "I will go anywhere and I will talk to anyone."

Position 2

As a teenager in Redmond, Michelle Salinas had to temporarily drop out of school to take care of her younger sisters after her parents abandoned them.

Salinas eventually re-enrolled at Redmond High School, earned her diploma and now serves as the assistant branch manager at Bank of America in Redmond. She wants to be on the school board so local schools can bet-



Hartfield



Hunter



Salinas



Summers



Visinoni

ter assist students who went through tough times like she did.

"I was an underprivileged child who had to struggle for everything," said Salinas, 40. "I want more representation of those underprivileged children."

Salinas has two children at Hugh Hartman Elementary School. She was also the co-chair and manager for the political action committee that helped pass the Redmond schools bond last November.

Some of Salinas' biggest concerns are keeping students safely in schools in-person, addressing post-COVID-19 learning loss and supporting the equity task force.

A state legislature-approved bill, awaiting Gov. Kate Brown's signature, would allow school districts to vote on whether or not to continue to allow permitted, concealed firearms on school property. Redmond School District currently does not have a policy addressing visitors carrying weap-

ons in schools, but staff and students are banned from doing so.

Salinas said she was unsure how she felt about banning visitors from bringing concealed guns to schools.

"As someone who comes from a family who owns guns, I don't want to see our rights being taken away," she said. "With that being said, I think it's so important for our students to feel safe and be safe."

Michael Summers, owner of Bend-based Summers Flooring and Design, said if elected, he hopes to heal the divide between school staff and some local families. The tension between the two groups got heated after COVID-19 mandates from Oregon Department of Education required students to learn online, he said.

"Teachers and administrators just got beat up last year," Summers, 39, said. "I felt like I can come in and help."

Summers has three daughters in Redmond schools — two in middle

school at Redmond Proficiency Academy and one at Hugh Hartman Elementary.

One thing Summers wishes Redmond schools did better is keeping parents informed. For example, even though he was happy to hear of Mosaic Medical hosting vaccine clinics inside schools, he thinks parents weren't given enough information about them.

"I feel like if parents can trust the board to keep them in the loop — especially on health-related things — that would ease so much tension," he said.

The board should also be more clear to parents about the goals of the equity task force, Summers said. At the moment, some conservative families in Redmond are anxious about it, and they may want more involvement, he said.

"If they feel their input is taken into account, and they have a choice, then that unnecessary tension is diffused, and we can get somewhere," Summers said.

Summers didn't know enough about the guns-in-schools bill to have a strong opinion on it, he said.

If elected to the school board Rachel Visinoni — an office assistant and mother of a kindergartener at Tom McCall Elementary — said she'd

push for more opportunities for open dialogue between parents and the district.

"We need to find that sense of community again, and a sense of compromise between the parent's voices and the school board," said Visinoni, 44.

Like Hartfield, Visinoni wants more extracurricular activities for elementary students. She also wants to host teacher-parent sessions, which could ease tensions between the groups, she said.

"If we need to do something like an open forum, where parents can ask teachers anything they need to, I think that would be incredibly beneficial," Visinoni said.

If the Redmond School Board must make a decision on visitors bringing guns into schools, Visinoni would advocate for banning firearms on school property.

"I am 100% pro-second amendment, always have been, but I cannot think of any reason why a parent would need to bring a concealed weapon to a basketball game or parent-teacher conference," she said. "Keep them in the car."

Lacey Butts, whose name will appear on the ballot, is no longer running for office.

More candidates on P5

SOLUTION Crossword on Page 2

L	U	M	P		S	A	L	S	A		A	S	P	S					
A	S	E	A		P	R	I	A	M		S	T	O	A					
D	A	R	N		A	C	E	R	B		M	E	L	T					
					O	C	C	A	S	I	O	N	A	L	L	Y			
M	A	R	R	I	E	D				Y	E	L	L	E	R				
O	L	E	A	N		E	M	U		G	L	A	D	S					
B	L	A	M	E	S		E	N	T										
					S	P	A	S	M	O	D	I	C	A	L	L	Y		
										U	L	E		P	L	E	A	S	E
A	S	S	E	S		D	A	M		G	A	Z	E	S					
M	O	I	R	E	S					I	S	O	P	Y	R	E			
I	N	F	R	E	Q	U	E	N	T	L	Y								
D	A	T	A			U	N	D	U	E				E	E	L	S		
S	T	E	T			A	D	A	T	E				A	R	I	A		
T	A	R	A			D	O	M	E	D				R	A	S	P		

LETTERS AND COLUMNS

Join in on the topics we're covering. The Spokesman welcomes letters to the editor and guest columnists.

Submissions may be edited or rejected for clarity, taste, libel and space. They must be signed and include an address and a telephone number where the writer can be reached during business hours. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published. For more information, call 541-633-2166.

To submit, email is preferred: news@redmondspokesman.com.

Submissions can also be mailed to:
P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708

MILESTONES

Email news@redmondspokesman.com to request an engagement, wedding, anniversary or birthday announcement form. For more information, call 541-383-0304.

To ensure timely publication, The Spokesman requests that forms be submitted within one month of the celebration. Engagement announcements must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the wedding.

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

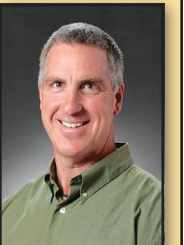
Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Joe A Lochner Insurance Agency Inc.

Joe Lochner, Agent
123 SW 5th Street
Redmond, OR 97756
Bus: 541-548-6023
joe.lochner.h5mi@statefarm.com
Fax: (541) 548-6024



State Farm, Bloomington, IL
1211999

Michelle

SALINAS

FOR REDMOND SCHOOL BOARD

Committed to Redmond Community

A Redmond High graduate with two children attending the district. Co-chair for YES! For RSD kids PAC 2020 ensuring much needed funding for our schools.

Vote Michelle Salinas for Redmond Schools.

Paid for by MichelleSalinas4Redmond