

Board of Directors sees contested races in two zones

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE/MONMOUTH — Central School District Board of Directors has five seats up for election on May 16. Zones 2 and 5 are contested. In zones 4, 6 and 7, the incumbent is running for re-election.

ZONE 2
Peggy Clyne won her seat through a write-in campaign in the 2015 election. She has enjoyed serving on the board, something she hadn't been able to do until moving to Independence six years ago.

Clyne has made a 28-year career out of working for schools and education, so she was not able to serve on the school board because she worked for the district. Now that she works in Corvallis and lives in Independence, it offers her a chance to give back to her community, she said.

"One of the most important things is to continue to build the current path that we're already on, which in turn will build trust within and outside the district," Clyne said. "Central is a wonderful district with highly qualified teachers and staff. We always hear such wonder-

Central School District

- ZONE 2**
Peggy Clyne
Occupation: Corvallis School District, teaching and learning administrative assistant III
Background: Central Linn School District, educational assistant, head secretary, district office accounts payable/payroll/benefits; Laurel Elementary School (Junction City), office secretary; previous city councilor for Brownsville; Central school board member.
Education: Graduate of Central Linn High School; Linn-Benton Community College.
- Salvador Diaz**
Occupation: Self-employed.
Background: General business experience as a real estate professional, as well as in the publishing industry.
Education: Master's of Business Administration, California Lutheran University; bachelor's in communication studies, Western Oregon University; graduate of Central High School.
- ZONE 4**
Jerry Shinkle
Occupation: Caregiver in adult foster homes.
Background: Mechanic, welder, high school teacher, Central school board member.
Education: Graduate of Yuba City High School; associate degree in agriculture, Yuba College; bachelor's in agriculture, Fresno State College; teaching license in ag education, University of California - Davis.
- ZONE 5**
Steve Milligan
Occupation: Executive director, computer coding for after-school program
Background: Bookkeeper; plant management; business owner;

- Monmouth city council; previous Monmouth-Independence Network board of directors; Central school board member; Monmouth mayor.
Education: Associate degree in accounting, Chemeketa Community College.
- Kristina Mann**
Occupation: Private investigator, self-employed.
Background: Business owner; domestic violence assessor; parole and probation officer; police officer; bus driver.
Education: Bachelor's in social science, Western Oregon University; associate degree in criminal justice, Linn-Benton Community College.
- ZONE 6**
Donn Wahl
Occupation: Retired
Background: Hewlett-Packard, engineering, management; Small Business Administration, counselor; Independence Box Company, owner; Central school board member.
Education: Bachelor's in electrical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Master's in Business Administration, Oregon State University.
- ZONE 7**
Darcy Kirk
Occupation: Professional photography; accounting at Kirk & Sons Hazelnuts; American Red Cross disaster team.
Background: Accounting and human resources, Kirk & Sons Hazelnuts; photographer; author; worked at Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom; substitute teacher in Lebanon; Central school board member.
Education: Degree in writing/journalism, University of Oregon; bachelor's in elementary education, Oregon State University; working on her master's in writing.

ful things about how wonderful the kids are, how engaged and civic-minded."

In Corvallis, Clyne said she has had the opportunity to go through extensive equity training.

"Equity is extremely important to me," she said. "What can we do as the

board to make sure every student in our district has an equal opportunity for success. What can we do to continue to close that achievement gap between our emergent bilingual and native speakers."

Clyne said she has six grown children — none of

them attended Central schools.

"I view that as a positive thing," she said. "I have no agenda; I have no history; I can make decisions on the now."

Salvador Diaz grew up in Independence and graduated from Central High School.

As such, he said he knows where Central students are coming from, particularly the Hispanic ones.

"I know what it's like to be a minority student in a setting like that," he said. "I know how it is to have your interests overlooked unintentionally and sometimes pass by

you. I feel like I'm qualified now to lend some guidance from past experiences. Also, I genuinely care about the kids and bring some diversity and diverse perspectives to the board."

Diaz said serving on the school board is something he has always wanted to do, but wanted to first acquire the skill set and experiences that would offer a valuable perspective to the board.

"I offer a wealth of experience now," he said. "I have a good level of education to make educated decisions."

Diaz said, from what he understood, the board is doing a "fantastic job."

"There isn't much to change," he said. "I want to contribute to the continued success they're achieving."

One thing he will contribute is a Latino perspective, Diaz said.

"The board currently doesn't have anyone who represents the Latino community," he said. "I want to be a good role model for those wanting to step up and serve, and inspire the students that they're going to have an opportunity to step up and have their voice heard, and show a genuine interest in their community."

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Schools: Election day is May 16

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I think for myself. If more people would do what I'm doing, we could get some of the things that are going off the rails back on track.

Dave Hunt, 61, of Dallas

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Retired Firefighter/Medic 1981-2015 Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
EDUCATION: Sheldon High (Eugene) 1973; University of Oregon, 1973-76 Liberal Arts (no degree)

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT SERVICE: Current: Budget Committee 2017 - 2019; Superintendent's Committee - Spring 2017; Oakdale Heights Elementary - Site Council 2016-2017.

CAMPAIGN PHONE NUMBER: 503-507-7221.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU RESIDED IN THE AREA YOU WILL REPRESENT: 20 years.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

As a parent of school-age children, and a longtime resident of Dallas, I recognize the need for proactive, experienced and involved leadership committed to improving the educational opportunities within the Dallas School District. I feel I can provide that leadership as a board member.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST SINGLE ISSUE FACING THE DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT? HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS IT IF ELECTED?

The single biggest issue facing the Dallas School District is how to continue providing a quality education for our children in the most efficient and fiscally responsible manner possible. The current economic outlook for our school district will require proactive and creative solutions to the budgeting difficulties presented by pending reductions in funding from the state.

I believe by managing the district's existing finances effectively and setting realistic budget priorities, coupled with aggressive lobbying for alternate sources of revenue, we can meet our goals.

WHAT EXPERIENCE OR TALENT DO YOU BELIEVE YOU WOULD BRING TO THE OFFICE?

I bring a unique experience and motivation to the position. As a retired public employee, I understand the importance of customer service and value for tax dollars. I'm a grandparent on a fixed income having successfully graduated three adult children from Dallas High, and I'm also a

parent with two children currently attending Oakdale Heights Elementary. My history volunteering in the community and schools, from coaching sports to committee work, gives me the knowledge and experience needed as a school board officer.

DEADLINES

- NEWS DEADLINES**
For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the *Itemizer-Observer*:
Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Thursday.
Community events — Noon on Friday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.
Letters to the editor — 10 a.m. on Monday.
Obituaries — 4 p.m. on Monday.

- ADVERTISING DEADLINES**
Retail display ads — 3 p.m. Friday.
Classified display ads — 11 a.m. on Monday.
Classified line ads — Noon on Monday. Classified ads are updated daily on www.polkio.com.
Public notices — Noon on Friday.

CORRECTIONS

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an email to ementzer@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* website, www.polkio.com, is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items, including additional photos, that do not appear in print due to space limitations.

The *Itemizer-Observer* is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
April 25.....	59	45	.22
April 26.....	55	41	.58
April 27.....	56	42	.17
April 28.....	60	36	T
April 29.....	66	36	.04
April 30.....	61	44	.01
May 1.....	55	37	T

Rainfall during April — 4.42 in.
Rain through May 1 — 30.92 in.

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