

Good education is the goal, only the approaches are different

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The district's goals should be to put the Proud back into "A school to be proud of," and maintain sound financial plans for educating the children.

Hansen has attended board meetings only occasionally, but he has served on the district budget committee and was a volunteer outdoor school leader for many years.

Cari Levenseller Pos. 5

incumbent
Personal:
Age 28
Married
5 children
Education:
A.A. in Arts and Sciences
Occupation/Background:
Homemaker/wife/mother



The district's greatest strength is the staff, both certified and classified, Levenseller says, their actions demonstrate their dedication. The biggest weakness is the need for safety upgrades in the buildings and better compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Levenseller wants the district's goals to include addressing the building problems, seeking additional funding through grants, and possibly developing an organized parent volunteer group.

The role of a board member is to ensure the best possible education in a safe environment, but they must base their decisions on fact, not feelings.

Levenseller volunteers in three classrooms, tutoring children who need extra help in reading, math and science. She also grades papers, assists teachers in other ways and is on the elementary school Site Council.

She regularly attended board meetings prior to her appointment.

Education, *n.* That which discloses to the wise and disguises from the foolish their lack of understanding.

— Ambrose Bierce

MS Society offering scholarships

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Oregon Chapter, will offer four \$500 scholarships to young adults with a parent with multiple sclerosis who plan to attend an accredited college or university in the fall of 2001.

"Multiple sclerosis is a disease that affects the entire family, emotionally and economically," says Lance Christian, program coordinator with the National MS Society. "Financial resources that might otherwise be set aside for higher education may be spent on helping the family cope with the disease. Our hope is that these scholarships will help families coping with MS to also realize their goals of higher education."

Applicants must submit an application form and an essay on the topic, "What MS has

Peter J. Brock Pos. 5

Personal:
Age 57
Married
3 children
Education:
A.A. in
Political
Science; California Vocational
Education teaching certificate



Occupation/Background:
Licensed contractor past nine years; previously sold Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems; law enforcement officer in Montana and California

Brock agrees with the others that there is inadequate communication between the board/administration and the community. He wants the board meetings open to "more interaction with teachers and the public" and is highly critical of the board's refusal to answer questions from the public without first researching the information. He feels people should get answers immediately.

School board members should ensure that students' educational needs are met and that the district is in compliance with special education requirements.

Brock has been an active volunteer, helping with science club, music and drama, and providing transportation. He frequently attends board meetings.

Schann Nelson Pos. 1

incumbent
Personal:
Age 48
Married
3 children
Education:
B.S. in Psychology; EMT Intermediate; Rural Futures Forum



Occupation/Background:
Owner, Dennis Electric, Inc.; Chairman of the Board, Keasey Family Corporation (timberland operators); part-time reporter for *The INDEPENDENT*; member of Columbia County PCC Advisory Committee

meant to me and my family". Applications and essays will be reviewed by a panel of National MS Society volunteers. To qualify, an applicant must be the child of a parent with MS; parents must be members of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The application deadline is May 11, 2001. Questions and requests for application forms should be directed to Lance Christian at 1-800-344-4867, ext. 1, or by e-mail at <lchristian@orcnmss.org>.

The National MS Society aims to end the devastating effects of MS. It is the largest voluntary health organization in the United States, supporting international MS research and providing services, education and public policy for Americans with MS and their families.

Nelson feels that a board member's role is to represent the public fairly and ensure that the district operates in a professional and highly ethical manner.

Vernonia's dedicated staff is the district's greatest strength, but one of its weaknesses is recognizing and rewarding their efforts in a meaningful way, Nelson says. Additional strength is derived from the board of directors, through their broad range of experience and training, and cooperative efforts.

That spirit of cooperation also needs to be fostered among students, staff and the community, along with enhanced communications, she adds.

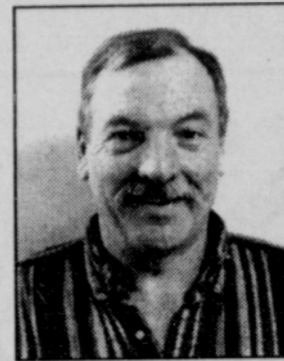
As legislative liaison Nelson keeps the board informed on education and funding issues in Salem, including a move to equalize funding for the state's Education Service Districts, which provide much-needed services to school districts. At this time, the service district for Columbia County receives about \$200 less per pupil than Multnomah County.

Nelson has volunteered extensively throughout the district, serving on and chairing both Site Councils, the Budget Committee and Curriculum

Council, helping with music programs and field trips (including Ashland), as a "head-checker" in the battle against head lice, scorekeeper for varsity volleyball and assisting with gat collections at basketball games. She also developed a student recognition component for the Fall Concert that was first used this year.

Rick Hobart Pos. 1

Personal:
Age 50
Divorced
2 children
Education:
George
Williams College; Oregon
School of Real Estate



Occupation/Background:
Meter Reader for West Oregon
Electric Cooperative; sales associate, Vernonia Realty; owner, Nehalem Valley Carriage

Hobart feels the district's first concern must be a plan for future growth, specifically a new school building. He would like to see a new construction between Washington Grade School and the high school that would include a gymnasium, auditorium and class rooms.

A board member's role, Hobart says, is "to assist and aid the administration in helping its

students be the best they can possibly be."

He shows no volunteer activities in the schools and has not attended board meetings for at least the last two years.

Jim Krahn Pos. 6

Personal:
Age 51
Married
5 children
Education:
B.S. Univ.
of
Wisconsin



Occupation/Background:
Exec. Director, Oregon Dairy
Farmers Association

Krahn is the only candidate without opposition. He is in agreement that finances and communications are the district's major problems, and that the staff — both certified and classified — is the major strength.

Krahn has volunteered on the budget committee; he has attended board meetings occasionally.

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