

Okemos Board of Education
Board Vacancy Committee Meeting
May 28, 2009

Attendees: Committee members Ron Styka, Jeffrey Theuer and Peter Trezise

Community Attendance: Elsy Baron, Lynne Page

There were no public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

The committee announced nine applicants and indicated that any of these individuals would serve the community well as a school board member: Deb Baughman, Susan Corbin, Patrick Crowley, Brian DeRath, Damian Fisher, Shawn Grady, Benjamin Langman, Connie Osters, and Kris Ramesh. Ron Styka indicated that a high school student had applied but could not be considered and was advised it was because she is not yet 18 and a registered voter.

The committee read the name of each applicant and noted their background. The committee indicated that based on the short term needs for the temporary position, the board would best be served by an individual with more specific school board experience, including the budgeting process. Thus, the committee members indicated their top four candidates: Deb Baughman, Susan Corbin, Connie Osters, and Shawn Grady.

Following further dialogue, the committee determined to recommend Deborah Baughman because she most recently retired from school board service and would best be able to be up to speed in a short period of time.

Community member Elsy Baron inquired why the board conducted the process when they had indicated at their last meeting they wanted a recent former board member. Peter Trezise indicated he thought that it was important to the board to not recruit someone but open the door for anyone interested, noting that had no former board members applied, the choice would have been different.

The committee created and signed a memo of recommendation that will be delivered to the board with all applications in preparation of its June 3, 2009 meeting.