

Clatskanie School District 6J
PO Box 678
Clatskanie OR 97016
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
October 5, 2020, 6:30 pm via Zoom
(see our main page at www.csd.k12.or.us for instructions on joining the meeting via Zoom)

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Megan Evenson-Board Chair, Kara Harris-Vice Chair, Ian Wiggins, Kathy Engel
Admin Team Present: Cathy Hurowitz-Superintendent, Mark Berghthold-Business Manager, Tami Burgher-Board Secretary,
Kara Burghardt-CES Principal
Guests: Katherine Willis, Paul Simmons, William Spencer, Stacy Hicks

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 pm
A. Agenda Review

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Interview/appoint a new School Board Member: M. Evenson-Board Chair, introduced both candidates. There are five interview questions. Each person will have a chance to answer after each question.

1. William Spencer
2. Katherine Willis

Tell us a little about yourself and why you are interested in filling the open school board seat and have you run for the election of a school board before. Why or why not?

K. Willis

- Has been a local resident for 10ish years and has one daughter in Kindergarten and one in sixth grade.
- It is very important that we all do our part to support our community.
- It is a difficult and interesting time for all districts and would like to do her part.
- Has never run for a school board position.
- Up until a few years ago, wasn't well versed in what was going on with the schools and at the last election, they had really great candidates so didn't feel the need to step up. With this opening up it seemed like a great opportunity to step up.

W. Spencer

- Went K-3 in Clatskanie and graduated from Rainier. Did 8 yrs in the Coast Guard. Recently married and has three new stepchildren in the district.
- Would like to be a voice for those that feel they aren't being heard.
- Has never run for a school board position.
- Up until now, hasn't had any school aged children

What particular strengths will you bring to this school board?

W. Spencer

- Leadership and listening to other people's opinions and concerns.
- Willing to stand up and push for change if needed.
- Help navigate and make the tough choices.

K. Willis

- Ability to look at things objectively, has been in nursing leadership for a number of years.
- Works collaboratively and sees the different sides of issues.
- Ability to stand up when needed.

What will you find the greatest challenge about school board service?

W. Spencer

- The unique times that we are in now.
- Roll with the punches, right now there are no good answers, no clear path going forward. Trying to find the best way to navigate the rough waters we are in.

K. Willis

- Meeting all of the needs of all of the students, while working within the federal and state mandates on a limited budget. Getting each child what they need while working within constraints.

What do you believe are the greatest challenges currently facing this school district? What do you see as the board's role in addressing those challenges? What do you see as the administration's role in addressing those challenges?

K. Willis

- Obviously, everything that is going on with COVID 19.
- Meeting the needs of all students in the classroom.
- There was a space issue at the end of last year and what it would look like to move the 6th grade up to the high school.
- Working within the limited staffing due to budget constraints.
- The board's role is to make sure that resources are being allocated appropriately, access any funding available through grants, accessing help from the community (both funding & volunteers), making our needs known to the community (sometimes there is a lack of awareness in the community of what the issues are).
- As far as administration's role....many of the issues and constraints are very difficult to navigate.

W. Spencer

- Going to go with the struggles his family and many other families are facing in the community, and that is having two working parents who aren't home during the day working with K-3 students for a few hours in the evening and trying to get it all done. Also, may have to have a teenaged child looking after the younger kids while parents are at work. Younger ones are up until 9 pm - 10 pm doing homework. It's very frustrating. We have families that need to have their kids in school. It starts with the lower level officials pushing up to accomplish this. Kids are going to fall behind if we don't get them into the classroom.
- The board's role would be to work with public officials and other people setting up protocols to get kids back in the classroom
- The administration's/teacher's roles would be to follow the protocols to get kids back in the classroom.

What is your leadership philosophy for the school district?

W. Spencer

- A good leader should always be a follower.
- Take responsibility for the downfalls and slides as well as the ups.
- Our community could be a great leader for other districts around us in helping them safely open their schools.

K. Willis

- Just like in nursing leadership, sometimes you have to go back to the basics. Like, what are we here for? To give kids a good education and raise good, successful citizens. Be sure to keep our focus on what we are here for, kids.
- Keep it simple, listen to everyone and work collaboratively.

The board thanked both candidates for throwing their hats into the ring, it is really nice to have two to choose from. For the candidate that is not chosen, they were reminded to run in the next election or the board always needs budget committee members.

A motion was made to nominate Katherine Willis to the vacant school board director position 2.

IW/KE

K. Engel explained why she seconded the motion. When the district was in such turmoil a few years ago, she saw Katerine at a lot of school board meetings so she has a real feel as to how it all works and can hit the ground running. Not all of us had a clear picture of what the board does until we got training on the board's role in the district. W. Spencer had lived here a few years, but he just got married and his kids moved here. K. Harris encouraged him to attend the school board meetings as a great way to stay informed and there is public comment at the beginning of each meeting and is a really great way to have your voice heard.

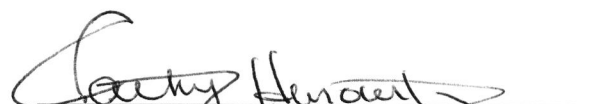
UNANIMOUS

- B. Swear in new board member: M. Evenson swore in our newest school board member, Katherine Willis, with an oath of office.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:02 pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING: October 12, 2020


Megan Evenson, Board Chair


Cathy Hurowitz, Superintendent