

Meeting Packet

Special Session

8/9/2022

07:00 PM



PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J

Special Session

PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J

District Office

1620 Applegate Street, Philomath

8/9/2022 07:00 PM

A. REGULAR SESSION ~ 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: Rick Wells, Chair

B. BOARD VACANCY CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

[Cheeke Application \(p. 3\)](#)

[Kurfman Application \(p. 5\)](#)

[Marcotte Application \(p. 7\)](#)

[McMorran Application \(p. 9\)](#)

C. ACTION ITEMS ~

1. Board Vote on Candidates
2. New Board Member Oath of Office

D. MEETING CLOSURE ~

1. Next Meeting Agenda Items
2. Board Requests & Adjournment

PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J
INFORMATION SHEET

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE

Please fill out and return to the Philomath Schools' District Office, 1620 Applegate Street, Philomath, OR 97370.
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022.

NAME Ryan Cheeke DATE July 29, 2022

HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

OCCUPATION Self Employed Farmer NUMBER OF YEARS LIVING IN THE DISTRICT 20

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ATTENDED Linn-Benton Community College

Do you have children attending school in the district? Yes No

If so, which schools?

- CLEMENS PRIMARY SCHOOL
- PHILOMATH ELEMENTARY
- BLODGETT ELEMENTARY
- PHILOMATH ACADEMY

- KINGS VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
- PHILOMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL
- PHILOMATH HIGH SCHOOL

Have you worked on any PSD school committees? Yes No

If so, which committees? NA

Other Community or Business Activities I am the current Benton County 4-H Beef superintendent and have maintained that position for the past 24 years. I am an active member of the 4-H Youth Auction Committee and Benton County 4-H Fair Foundation. I work closely with Greenbelt and Crestmont Land Trusts to graze cattle for habitat management and recreational purposes. My farm contributes and supports the Philomath Frolic and Rodeo yearly. We assisted with the construction of the Pedal Car track at Clemens Primary School.

What qualifications and interests do you have that will help you in being a Board member?

I have general knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order and am familiar with how they are used. I consider myself very proactive in all aspects of my life. I am not afraid to stand up for my beliefs and take on a leadership role when needed.

What do you perceive the job of a school Board member to be?

To select and hire Superintendents, adopt and maintain an annual budget, serve as a representative of the community and as advocates for students and the district. Be aware of policies, laws and regulations that may impact the district. Review State testing results.

What would you hope to accomplish as a member of the school Board team?

I really want to see the kids in our community succeed in school and in life. I hope to be a Board member that people feel comfortable talking to and sharing ideas with. We need to work together as a community to encourage children to be positive members of society. I would love to see more vocational opportunities for students so they can build confidence and self worth.

How would you prioritize or balance the needs of all students in the decisions you make as a school Board member?

I feel that it is important to have a good working relationship with the community, teachers and staff to listen to their concerns and work together for the benefit of all students. Every student should have the opportunity to come to a safe learning environment and feel that they matter and are supported, regardless of learning ability.

PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J
INFORMATION SHEET

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE

Please fill out and return to the Philomath Schools' District Office, 1620 Applegate Street, Philomath, OR 97370.
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022.

NAME Abigail Kurfman DATE 08/05/2022
HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
OCCUPATION Educator NUMBER OF YEARS LIVING IN THE DISTRICT 2.5
EMAIL ADDRESS _____
SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ATTENDED Marylhurst University, Lewis & Clark College, Gladstone High School

Do you have children attending school in the district? Yes No

If so, which schools?

<input type="checkbox"/> CLEMENS PRIMARY SCHOOL	<input type="checkbox"/> KINGS VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH ELEMENTARY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL
<input type="checkbox"/> BLODGETT ELEMENTARY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH HIGH SCHOOL
<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH ACADEMY	

Have you worked on any PSD school committees? Yes No

If so, which committees?

Other Community or Business Activities Yes

*Proposing, commissioning, donating a new sign for disc golf course at Marys River Park via Fenrir Creations

*Publicity committee/guest artist assistant for 2022 POST (Philomath Open Studio Tours) via Fenrir Creations

*Book sale volunteer; attended/spoke at some city and school board meetings; Philomath Citizenship Academy

*Contributing participant in Regional REG, which includes Philomath school district representatives

*Volunteering with Linn/Benton NAACP, which serves Philomath

< over >

What qualifications and interests do you have that will help you in being a Board member?

*Deep, sustained interest in & passion for high-quality educational policies/practices (thru multiple career avenues)

*Public school teacher for 7+ years in multiple school types (7-12, middle school, online K-8 plus others as sub)

*Education non-profit experience working w/school board members, administrators, educators, parents, etc.

*Education non-profit experience as a grant writer working w/predominantly Spanish-speaking parents

*Throughout, supporting organizational strength as a collaborative problem solver, team player, and, as appropriate, leader (e.g., AVID, REG, building leadership, project & committee lead, theatre & club advisor)

What do you perceive the job of a school Board member to be?

1) Hire the superintendent & 2) Set policies informed by current practices, best practices, and constituent input

In order to fulfill those core duties and maintain smooth district operations, I perceive that board members must:

*Respectfully & effectively communicate w/fellow Board members to reach consensus/majority on policy decisions

*Respectfully listen to/understand constituent input (especially families, educators; students when appropriate); respectfully communicate to & with constituents as needed

*Learn about policy impacts, including learning from those with more experience w/impacts of policies & by identifying best practices regarding policies

What would you hope to accomplish as a member of the school Board team?

*Share my deep knowledge of schools combined with my fresh perspective and communication skills

*Support the well-being of students and staff to enable academic success post-pandemic

*Learn more about serving as a School Board member from fellow Board members, including thru OSBA

*Listen to and build connections with constituents

*Utilize the combination of all of the above to support well-informed decision-making

How would you prioritize or balance the needs of all students in the decisions you make as a school Board member?

*Seek input from different constituent groups to make an informed decision re impact on disparate student groups

~Locally: seek input from parents, student groups, educators, educational leaders

~More broadly: seek input from organizations, writings, and recommendations about impacts on students

*Prioritize all students' well-being and support their strengths and leadership potential, including through

electives and extracurriculars (sports, theatre, etc.) as well as full access to academic success

PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J
INFORMATION SHEET

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE

Please fill out and return to the Philomath Schools' District Office, 1620 Applegate Street, Philomath, OR 97370.
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022.

NAME Janelle Marcotte DATE August 1, 2022
HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
OCCUPATION IS Applications Manager NUMBER OF YEARS LIVING IN THE DISTRICT 9 years
EMAIL ADDRESS _____
SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ATTENDED College of the Redwoods & Linn Benton Community College

Do you have children attending school in the district? Yes No

If so, which schools?
 CLEMENS PRIMARY SCHOOL KINGS VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
 PHILOMATH ELEMENTARY PHILOMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL
 BLODGETT ELEMENTARY PHILOMATH HIGH SCHOOL
 PHILOMATH ACADEMY

Have you worked on any PSD school committees? Yes No

If so, which committees? N/A

Other Community or Business Activities _____

Our business participates in the Philomath Chamber, helping our community wherever possible.
This past year we were able to contribute to many fundraisers, including sponsoring the Cash Cab for the senior all night party.

< over >

What qualifications and interests do you have that will help you in being a Board member?

I am member of the community with children in the district. I want the best for my children, their future, and all children coming through our district. I want to ensure that we have opportunities available for our kids to grow and learn about life skills, in addition to their education. My early years shaped my future, participating in FFA and extra curricular activites were important to gaining life skills and preparing me for today. I want to help our future have the opportunity to do the same, prepare to be adults when its time, but allow for our young children to be kids, to grow up slowly and enjoy their childhoods.

What do you perceive the job of a school Board member to be?

My perception of a school board member's job includes supporting the district faculty, students and members of the community. I understand we as board members drive change in policy, are responsible for helping to interpret where change is needed and present this to the public. In addition, representing what our community and the Philomath School District have set forth for their values and mission - of creating life-long learners who are responsible, respectful and who have a path to follow after graduation.

What would you hope to accomplish as a member of the school Board team?

I want to increase transparency and aid families in having a voice in their childrens education. I want to ensure we evaluate where the district is currently and ensure we are sustainable for the future. There are many multi-generational families who still reside in our district, and many new families who have joined. I want to bring all of these members together to understand what they want for our future, and ensure our board supports what our community truly wants for their children.

How would you prioritize or balance the needs of all students in the decisions you make as a school Board member?

When it comes to balance you have to the short and long term goals. We have to understand the impacts of our decisions to our community, and most importantly the children of our community. We are a here to advocate for the students we support to ensure we are making the best decision for the larger group. Not all decisions are easy to make, but we must remain open-minded and take all things into consideration when making decisions.

PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J
INFORMATION SHEET

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE

Please fill out and return to the Philomath Schools' District Office, 1620 Applegate Street, Philomath, OR 97370.
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022.

NAME Christopher McMorran DATE 7/21/22
HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
OCCUPATION Legislative Staff NUMBER OF YEARS LIVING IN THE DISTRICT 22

EMAIL ADDRESS _____
SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ATTENDED Philomath High School, University of Southern California

Do you have children attending school in the district? _____ Yes No

If so, which schools?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLEMENS PRIMARY SCHOOL | <input type="checkbox"/> KINGS VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH ELEMENTARY | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLODGETT ELEMENTARY | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH HIGH SCHOOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOMATH ACADEMY | |

Have you worked on any PSD school committees? Yes _____ No

If so, which committees? I have served on the Philomath School District Budget Committee, the Philomath High School Site Council (including one term as secretary), and the Philomath School District Technology Committee. In addition, I am currently working with the Board and Superintendent on the Local Option Levy Renewal effort for the November 8th, 2022 ballot. I also had the pleasure of serving as Student Body President at both Philomath Middle School and Philomath High School during my time as a student in the district.

Other Community or Business Activities _____

I also serve/have served on the City of Philomath Budget Committee, the Philomath Fire & Rescue Budget Committee, as Chair of the City of Philomath Public Art Committee, on the City of Philomath Inclusivity Committee, on the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Board, and on the Board of the nonprofit Strengthening Rural Families. During my time at USC, I served as Chair of the Norman Topping Student Aid Fund, an endowed fund which provided scholarships and support to first-gen, low-income, underrepresented students.

< over >

What qualifications and interests do you have that will help you in being a Board member?

I have a deep personal and professional interest in education policy and supporting student voice and student success. This includes work throughout my time as a student here in the district, my time as a student at USC, and my professional life now as a staffer in the Oregon State Legislature. I'm also very familiar with the roles, responsibilities, and interactions between special districts (like the School District), local jurisdictions like cities and counties, and the state government. I'd hope to build stronger relationships with our partners at these levels, in addition to robust local community outreach.

What do you perceive the job of a school Board member to be?

The job of a School Board Member is to provide strategic direction, leadership, and community representation in the School District. The superintendent manages the administration of the district, while Board members set policy, determine long-term strategic planning, make important budget and curriculum decisions, balance relations with bargaining units, student groups, parents, and community members, and respond to concerns within the district. The most important thing is to be a good listener, to be accessible, and to be responsive to our district stakeholders, without interfering in the superintendent's role in day-to-day administration.

What would you hope to accomplish as a member of the school Board team?

In an immediate sense, I would hope to work with the other Board members to successfully pass our local option levy renewal in November and keep the district in good financial health. In a broader sense, I would hope to continue the district's good work towards our mission to graduate every student and transition them to a job, training, or college. This is an incredible school district, with the capacity to truly change our students' lives and set them up for successful futures (trust me, I know!). I would hope to be a very active member of our school communities, working to ensure that every single student has the support they need to thrive.

How would you prioritize or balance the needs of all students in the decisions you make as a school Board member?

By listening to them! Students can be incredible advocates for their own needs if they are given the opportunity to do so. It's also important for us to actively seek out student voices who may not be the loudest or most vocal, but are just as important to the conversation. I'd hope to work with our administrators to actively, regularly engage with students throughout the district, and identify common areas of concern amongst our student body. We won't always be able to make everyone perfectly happy, but taking the time to genuinely listen, learn, and try to find common ground makes a huge difference. That's the type of Board member I hope to be.