

'In the Loop' with the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

BY JODEE RIORDAN

Board of Education President

With spring recess continuing this week, the Lewiston-Porter campus has been quiet. As of press time, it's been very quiet at the state level as well. While there has been budget movement in Albany, there is no new guidance yet from the New York state departments of Health or Education with regard to updates from the CDC related to social distancing in schools.

Lewiston-Porter remains in a holding pattern on both its budget and moving forward with any transition to a full return to campus. As we have discussed for the past several weeks, Lewiston-Porter must continue to wait for New York state until we can make any changes. Until that time, Lewiston-Porter will remain in the current learning models.

We hope everyone has enjoyed the well-deserved break. Classes resume Monday, April 12, with a traditional remote Monday schedule for all students in the hybrid model.

The Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the boardroom at the Community Resource Center for the budget development work session. While the board has returned for in-person meetings, out of an abundance of caution, members will continue to do so without a live studio audience. Please tune in via Zoom; the link and passcode are posted on the district website, www.lew-port.com.

The Lewiston-Porter Board of Education election and budget vote will be held Tuesday, May 18. Voting takes place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Community Resource Center. This year, Lewiston-Porter will hold elections to fill two board positions with three-year terms.

Have you ever considered running for the school board? Col. Lance Dickinson has left the Board of Education, but his contributions – especially in the areas of policy, board governance and advocacy – continue to shape the district. Each year, Lance would share a letter with the community to bring interested board candidates into "The Loop." Let's revisit his viewpoints as the deadline approaches for becoming a candidate.

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. It keeps the country's public schools flexible and responsive to the needs of their local communities. A member of a board of education takes on one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to any citizen: Helping to plan and execute the education of the community's youth.

Lewiston-Porter School Board members are elected each May and, with limited exceptions, serve three-year terms that are staggered so all board positions are never open at the same time.

What makes a good school board member? The legal requirements for board membership are few, but qualifications for effective service are many. The most effective board members possess most or all of the following attributes: being an effective communicator, a consensus builder, community participant, decision maker, information processor, leader and a team player.

What does a board member do? With children always their

ultimate focus, school board members act officially only at the board table. They work with other board members to accomplish the following: create a shared vision; set student performance standards; oversee development of an assessment program based on those standards; account for student achievement results; adopt the annual budget; align district resources to improve achievement; create a healthy environment for work and learning; build strategic partnerships; sustain the district's progress through continuous improvement; adopt and maintain current policies in a written format; hire and evaluate the su-

perintendent; ratify collective bargaining agreements; and maintain strong ethical standards.

How do I become a candidate? School board candidates must be at least 18 years old, a qualified voter in the school district and able to read and write. Candidates must also be a continuous resident of their district for one year before the election.

A candidate cannot be employed by the board on which they intend to serve, or live in the same household with a family member who is also a member of the same school board.

To run, a candidate must submit a nominating petition to the school

district clerk. This year, the petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified district voters and filed with the district clerk by 5 p.m. Monday, April 19, which is 30 days prior to the May 18 election.

We hope you will consider running for the school board this year and help provide Lewiston-Porter students with the best education possible. Specific details on the election and nominating petition packets can be obtained from the school website (link to the Annual Board Vote & Election 2021-2022 page) or by contacting District Clerk Marisa Barile at 286-7266 or mbarile@lew-port.com.

Additional information is avail-

able on The School Board Experience website (<https://www.nys-sba.org/clientuploads/nsbmx/>), provided by the New York State School Boards Association. This includes candidate eligibility, deadlines, starting the campaign process, basic roles and responsibilities, training requirements, leadership skills and more. Also, feel free to contact any Lew-Port board member to get our views on the responsibilities and time required to serve on the board.

It is more than one meeting a month, but it is an important and worthwhile service to our community.

Interested in serving on school board?

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