

'In the Loop'

Consider a run for school board

BY DANIELLE MULLEN

President, Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

If you have ever considered running for the school board, now is an excellent time to explore the position and process. This year, the Lewiston-Porter Central School District will hold elections to fill three board positions, each for a three-year term.

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. School boards are charged with overseeing the community's public education system. School boards are comprised of locally elected volunteers who represent the community and its specific needs. School board members can have a powerful impact on children for years to come by contributing positively to the district.

The New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA) states that school board members acting officially at the board table to serve students should strive to accomplish the following;

- ✓ Create a shared vision for the future of education;
- ✓ Set the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance;
- ✓ Provide rigorous accountability for student achievement results;
- ✓ Develop a budget and present it to the community, aligning district resources to improve achievement;
- ✓ Support a healthy school district culture for work and learning;
- ✓ Create strategic partnerships with the community stakeholders;
- ✓ Build the district's progress through continuous improvement;
- ✓ Adapt and maintain current policies;

✓ Hire and evaluate the superintendent;

✓ Ratify collective bargaining agreements; and

✓ Maintain strong ethical standards.

NYSSBA has also developed a list of attributes that help make an effective school board member.

✓ Effective communicator – can describe what they want and describe what others want; a good listener;

✓ Consensus builder – Capable of working toward decisions that all can support, and willing to compromise to achieve goals;

✓ Community participant – Enjoys meeting a variety of people, can identify the community's key communicators and reaches out to the community;

✓ Decision maker – Is comfortable making decisions and can support group decision making;

✓ Information processor – Can organize priorities and schedules to handle large amounts of verbal and written information;

✓ Leader – Willing to take risks, be supportive of board colleagues, district staff and community; and

✓ Team player – Help promote the board's vision and goals.

The Niagara Orleans School Board Association (NOSBA) has planned a prospective board member workshop this year from 8:30-11 a.m. Saturday, April 2. The workshop will include information about the election process, the importance of having a good working relationship between the board and the school superintendent, and reflections from three current board members, with an open Q&A session.

Interested candidates can find

Lewiston-Porter United Educational Employees announce the successful completion of its second annual fundraiser raffle to support Inter Community Service's Care-N-Share. The food pantry helps to support families struggling with food insecurity in Lewiston, Youngstown, Ransomville and Wilson, overlapping Lew-Port's footprint.

LPUEE's executive council raised a total of \$1,270 by selling raffle tickets to colleagues on the Lew-Port campus. The union donated a \$50 Amazon gift card and gratefully received a Lew-Port-themed swag basket from the district's active PTSA group to add to the prize. Jessica G. from the district office won the raffle drawing.

Lewiston Porter United Educational Employees represents a diverse group of people who work as teacher aides, personal care aides and monitors at Lewiston-Porter Central School District. These school-related professionals work directly to support the community's students to be their best and make the most of their time at Lew-Port.

From left: Nancy Bullis (LPUEE building representative), Kim Sembert (LPUEE president), Rhonda Shiah (Inter Community Services board member), Yokasta Munoz (LPUEE building representative), and Julia Pucci (LPUEE secretary).

LPUEE donates to Care-N-Share



more information on the Lewiston-Porter School District's website, www.lew-port.com, under the Board of Education tab. The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes will serve immediately after the election (upon filing the oath of office, if required) until June 30, 2025. The candidate who receives the third-highest number of votes will serve a three-year term from July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2025. Interested candidates must be 18 years of age, qualified voters in the school district and be able to read and write.

Petitions this year must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters in the district, and submit-

ted to the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. Monday April 18. The election and budget vote will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, in the Community Resource Center.

Being a school board member

can be an extremely rewarding way to give back to your community. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at dmullen@lew-port.com and I would be happy to discuss any questions you have.

IN THE NEWS

Tylec lifts parking ban

City of North Tonawanda Mayor Austin Tylec announced the parking ban on municipal streets would be lifted effective at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday. The ban was slated to run from Nov. 15, 2021, through April 1, 2022.

Should there be a significant snowfall, Tylec asks all residents to remove their vehicles from the street so city plows can safely clear the roads.

NCCC announces fall 2022 scholarships

The Niagara County Community College Foundation is offering scholarships for incoming and current students for the fall

2022 semester.

The Distinguished Student Scholarship (DSS) awards are the most prestigious scholarships given to high school seniors in Niagara County. The DSS award is two years of tuition-free education at NCCC for students who exemplify superior academics, community service, a commitment to Niagara County, and plan to remain in the county upon graduation. Applications are due Friday, March 25.

Additional general scholarships are available for part-and full-time students who are incoming or currently enrolled in classes. Funds for these scholarships are dona-

tions from local businesses, individuals, foundations, memorial gifts, bequests and revenue from the annual scholarship gala. During the 2020-21 academic year, the NCCC Foundation awarded over \$200,000 to more than 200 students. Applications for general scholarships are due April 1.

To apply for NCCC scholarships, visit the scholarship webpage and apply online at www.niagaracc.suny.edu/scholarships. For more information, call the NCCC Foundation/Scholarship Office at 716-614-5910.



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OLD FORT NIAGARA



The Gate of Five Nations

The original Gate of Five Nations was built by the French in 1756.

LEARN MORE HISTORY ABOUT OLD FORT NIAGARA ON THE WEBSITE

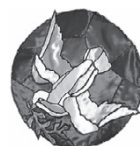
www.olderfortniagara.org
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NIAGARA PIONEER

House League Registration

Next week's Tribune/Sentinel

Niagarapioneer.com



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