

NEWS RELEASE

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WLEA ENDORSES FOUR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – The West Lafayette Education Association (WLEA) has endorsed four of the 15 candidates running for the West Lafayette Community School Corporation board. They include incumbents Brad Marley and Tom Schott along with Doug Masson and Amy Austin. A committee of educators from all three school buildings approved the endorsement after reviewing questionnaires and viewing taped interviews. Teachers and students enrolled in Advanced Placement Government conducted the interviews last week with assistance from the League of Women Voters.

“With so many candidates who have impressive credentials, it was an extremely tough decision,” Randy Studt, committee chair, says. “We did our due diligence and deliberated quite a while. Ultimately, we are confident that we’ve selected four most qualified candidates who will serve our schools with the best interest of students, teachers, and community stakeholders in mind.”

During the deliberation process, the committee considered the candidates’ experience with the school corporation, skill set they would bring to the board, service to the community, community connections, long range vision, and demonstrated ability to work collaboratively.

WLEA Co-President Marydell Forbes says each endorsed candidate offers something unique. “Brad Marley, with his financial background and 30 years of service to the community, has proven to be invaluable when it comes to budgeting and reviewing contracts, while Tom Schott offers two terms of exemplary service on the board, strong communication skills, and connections with Purdue. Doug Masson fills a legal niche and will help the corporation be proactive in keeping an eye on education related legislation, while Amy Austin, who writes newsletters for Westside parents, has been a well-known, active volunteer long before the pandemic. She has served on several parent councils and will be a strong voice for Westside families.”

WLEA is pleased that so many people have stepped up to serve and encourages the school corporation to keep all the candidates in mind after voters have the final say on Nov. 3.

“Some of the candidates have unique expertise in early childhood development or technology, for example, while another is a former teacher,” notes Andi Hipsher, WLEA Co-President. “Whether through leadership on committees or serving as consultants, we hope the administration finds ways to get every candidate involved. We’re strongest when we all work together to offer a world-class education that maximizes the potential of every student to succeed.”

The endorsed candidates’ names have been forwarded to the RDP Political Action Committee. It was formed to act as a fiduciary vehicle for campaign funding assistance and operates independently from WLEA.

CONTACT: Randy Studt, WLEA endorsement committee co-chair, (765) 532-2006,
gnwmann@aol.com

Marydell Forbes, WLEA Co-President (765) 404-8993, forbesmarydell@gmail.com

Andi Hipsher, WLEA Co-President, (765) 491-2779, hipsherandi@gmail.com