

## ***Message from the Office of the District Clerk***

### **Mark your Calendars!**

**Budget Workshops Meetings:** *February 4, March 3, 2020 - 6:00pm Boardroom, Community Resource Center*

**Candidate Nominating Petition Packets Available:** *February 24, 2020, District Office / District Website*

**Nominating Petitions Due:** *April 20, 2020, 5:00pm, District Office*

**Budget Hearing / Meet the Candidate Night:** *May 5, 2020 - 6:00pm, CRC Boardroom*

**Budget Vote & Election:** *May 19, 2020 7am to 8pm, Multi-Purpose Room, Community Resource Center*

Please visit our website all meetings dates & times are listed on our website at [www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com)

### **Become a Lewiston-Porter Board Of Education member!**

#### **Have You Ever Considered Running for the School Board?**

A school board member takes on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of the community's youth. In these challenging times for public education, school boards are seeking men and women who find excitement and satisfaction in confronting tough challenges and working collegially to rise above them and help students in their communities succeed.

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 (3) board positions; two (2) for 3-year terms and one (1) for a 1-year term.**

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. It oversees and manages the community's public school system. It ensures the public schools are flexible and responsive to the needs of the community. School boards are comprised of volunteers within the community who dedicate their time to better public education.

#### **Responsibilities of a Board Member**

With children always their ultimate focus, school board members act officially at the board table, working with other board members to serve students and to:

- 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
- Adopt and maintain current policies
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Ratify collective bargaining agreements
- Maintain strong ethical standards

#### **Characteristics of a Board Member**

The most effective board members possess these attributes:

- **Effective Communicator:** Can describe what he or she wants 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
- **Team Player:** Helps promote the board's vision and goals

#### **Running for the School Board**

Lewiston-Porter has a seven-member school board, with members serving three-year terms. Terms are staggered so all board positions are never open at the same time. Once you have made the commitment to run for your local school board, there are requirements, deadlines, and processes that must be adhered to.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

School board candidates must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old, qualified voters in the school district and able to read and write. They must be residents of their district continuously for one year before the election. They cannot be employed by the board on which they will serve or live in the same household with a family member who is also a member of the same school board.

### **Nominating Petitions**

Lewiston-Porter school board members are elected each May. To run, candidates must submit a nominating petition to the school District Clerk. The petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified district voters and filed with the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on ***April 20, 2020*** which is 30 days prior to the election on ***May 19, 2020***.

### **Training**

The Niagara-Orleans School Boards Association (NOSBA) is holding a free workshop for prospective/new school board members. You will learn about the election process, school boards and the law, Board-Superintendent relationships and perspectives on school board campaigns and school board service from veteran board members. The workshop will be held on ***Saturday, March 28, 2020*** from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Newfane Early Childhood Center on 6048 Godfrey Road, Burt, NY. The workshop is presented as a community service and is free of charge. To register, please call the Niagara County School Boards Association at 731-6800 ext. 2211 or e-mail [dstamp@onboces.org](mailto:dstamp@onboces.org).

Once elected, you will be required by New York State law to fulfill mandatory training within your first year of service. This includes fiscal oversight training and governance skills training.

We hope you will consider running for the school board and help us provide our students the best education possible. Further details can be obtained from the school website at [www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com) or by contacting Marisa Barile, District Clerk, at 716-286-7266, or [mbarile@lew-port.com](mailto:mbarile@lew-port.com). Also, feel free to contact any board member to get their view on the responsibilities and time required to serve on the board.