

Position 6: Lynsey Smith, Mandi Philpott, Rob Clamp (David Burkhardt did not answer)

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 1:21 PM Debbie Ethell <debbieethell@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Smith, Mr. Burkhardt, Mr. Clamp, and Ms. Philpott:

I am writing an upcoming article to be published in the Oregon City News in regards to the position you are each running for election: Oregon City School Board - Position 6, and will publish one week from today on (April 20, 2021). If you could please send me your answers to the following questions by April 19, 2021 I would appreciate it. If not, I will print that you declined to answer.

Some of you may already be aware that there are multiple on-going state-wide investigations opened against the Oregon City equestrian team coach (known as OHSET) Angie Wacker, the current Athletic Director, Andy Jones, the Principal Carey Wilhelm, and the Superintendent Larry Didway over their handling of complaints made by parents against coach Wacker which include severe bullying, harassment, cyber-stalking, not reporting serious injuries...to name a few, against **only** female student athletes. This past January Mrs. Wacker was unanimously convicted by the ethics commission of four ethics violations for "self dealing" among other things. No other coach in Oregon history has ever been convicted of so many at one time. The investigative report provided to the Oregon City School Board by Mr. Jones (a report according to district policy was in fact supposed to be prepared by Mr. Didway) was almost entirely lifted (copy/pasted word-for-word) from emails Mrs. Wacker sent to Mr. Jones. I have attached a copy of the report for your review: the portions highlighted in yellow are the segments of Mrs. Wacker's emails which made it into Mr. Jones's report without attribution. For reference, the plagiarized emails can be found behind the report itself. I have also included several recent articles written about this incident - see below . Yet, despite all of this, coach Wacker (a volunteer coach) continues on in her current position coaching both OHSET and 4-H clubs at Oregon City High School as does the athletic director.

I would like to ask you each the same questions in regards to this:

- 1) How would you handle a situation similar to this if you are elected to the Oregon City School Board?
- 2) Would you take the time to read any/all investigative reports provided to you in regards to any coach (volunteer or otherwise) accused of abusing female students? And what steps would you take if you in fact discovered the report was obviously falsified?
- 3) How comfortable do you feel in standing up to fellow board members and/or the Superintendent if you disagree on an issue or how the process is being handled?
- 4) How comfortable do you feel in making sure district policies are followed as they are written? (In this case, numerous District 62 policies were either ignored or not followed properly).
- 5) Will you make a commitment to understanding/reading the District #62 school policies in regards to how proper procedures within the district should be followed as well as ensure they are **same** for female student athletes as they are for male student athletes?

Article #1: ["State Nails Oregon City High School Coach on Ethics Violations"](#)

Article #5: ["Oregon City School Board Now Subject to State Ethics Probe"](#)

Article #7: ["Oregon Equestrian Coach Likely Author of Own Investigation"](#)

Article #8: ["DA Orders Oregon City School District to Release Audio of Illegal Vote"](#)

Article #10: ["Oregon City School District Apologizes for Illegal Board Vote"](#)

I would like to thank each of you for your time and attention to this matter.

Best,
Debbie Ethell

← Mandi Philpott

Mon, Apr 19, 8:01 AM (23 hours ago)



to me ▾

- 1) How would you handle a situation similar to this if you are elected to the Oregon City School Board?
- 2) Would you take the time to read any/all investigative reports provided to you in regards to any coach (volunteer or otherwise) accused of abusing female students? And what steps would you take if you in fact discovered the report was obviously falsified?
- 3) How comfortable do you feel in standing up to fellow board members and/or the Superintendent if you disagree on an issue or how the process is being handled?
- 4) How comfortable do you feel in making sure district policies are followed as they are written? (In this case, numerous District 62 policies were either ignored or not followed properly).
- 5) Will you make a commitment to understanding/reading the District #62 school policies in regards to how proper procedures within the district should be followed as well as ensure they are same for female student athletes as they are for male student athletes?

Answers:

1. I am reluctant to comment on "similar" incidents because if the current incident is capable of review by members later elected to the Board, I want to preserve my ability to participate in the board's decision-making process. I will, however, speak generally about how I would handle cases involving teacher, staff or administrator misconduct. Those who hold a position of teacher, school administrator or other school staff are in a position of public trust. The public should be capable of relying upon these individuals to provide support, guidance, equity and positive life experiences for children. Individuals in these positions who engage in a breach of such trust by conducting themselves unethically or in a destructive manner should be held accountable by the Board for their actions. The manner in which the individual is held accountable should be commensurate to the severity of the breach of trust and will depend on the facts surrounding each incident. In deciding these issues, the Board should demand and expect a full and unbiased investigation into the conduct, and the Board should expect the superintendent to follow the procedures outlined for investigation of such. The board should take the time that it feels is necessary to consider and deliberate its decisions, and not be rushed to or pressured to make a quick judgment on the issue. The Board should invite public input and should vote in a public setting.

2. I believe it is absolutely necessary for a board member making a decision on any issues before the Board to carefully read, considered, and scrutinize any and all information presented to the Board related to the decision. A board member should make decisions only upon credible information, and if a board member is aware that the information presented is obviously falsified or presented in a manner inconsistent with district policy, and this can be verified, then I believe the information should be wholly disregarded. The board should then demand that the investigation be conducted based upon established district policies and should delay any decisions until the board is satisfied that the investigation was competent. I believe it is further the duty of any board member who knows the information to be verifiably false to disclose that in-session to fellow board members.

3. My profession is the practice of law. As a lawyer, I handle disputes among parties frequently. I am accustomed to being presented and confronted with varied and disagreeing viewpoints. I will have no difficulty or reservations in navigating interactions with fellow board members or the superintendent on any issues; whether I agree or disagree with that person's position. I am not afraid to forward my position, even if it is contrary to that of others.

4 and 5. Every Board Member should have a working knowledge and understanding of district policies procedures. If elected, I will commit to reading and understanding these policies and procedures. District policies and procedures are created, in part, to provide a consistent road map and guidance for action. District policies and procedures should be adhered to and applied uniformly as to all individuals that are subject to the policies and procedures. Any policy or procedure which is now written that would allow for disparate application among individuals should be amended to eliminate this disparity and provide for equitable application.

----- Original message -----

From: Debbie Ethell <debbieethell@gmail.com>

Date: 4/19/21 9:29 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: Mandi Philpott <mandiforocsb@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Questions for upcoming article on OCSD, Position #6

Thank you for these answers to my questions Ms. Philpott.

I would like to give a sentence or two about your background. I currently state:

"She is a managing partner in the Gladstone-based law firm Schaleger Philpott, and whose specialty is child advocacy."

Would this be an accurate description? Please feel free to correct it. Also, can I mention whether or not you have children in the district?

Best,
Debbie

mandiforocsb

Mon, Apr 19, 5:30 PM (13 hours ago)

to me ▾

Yes. That is accurate. Yes, you can mention that I have children that attend oregon city public schools.

LYNSEY SMITH:

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 12:06 PM Lynsey Smith <lynseyforocsb@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Debbie,

Here is my statement on the topics you presented:

As a varsity coach in the largest school district in the state, I am well versed in the guidelines governing our jobs and the standards at which we are held. I know how vital it is for families and the community to have faith in the integrity, accountability, and mutual respect of Oregon City schools. This is especially true with regard to athletics and extracurricular activities as they have such a monumental impact on the growth of our young people. As a board member, I will strive to repair relationships and continue to promote positive experiences for students and meaningful interactions within the community.

To answer your questions directly:

1. I would ensure the proper parties are notified in accordance with state and district regulations.
2. Yes, without question.
3. I absolutely feel comfortable doing so.
4. Extremely comfortable, willing, and able to do so.
5. Yes, without a doubt

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Have a great afternoon,
Lynsey

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 12:37 PM Debbie Ethell <debbieethell@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Ms. Smith,

I forgot to ask you two more questions if you don't mind. I would like to give a bit of background to everyone who took the time to answer my questions and would like to know: 1) Do you have any children currently in the district and 2) Have you ever held a public office position before?

Thank you and again I appreciate your time.

Best,
Debbie

← **Lynsey Smith**

Apr 19, 2021, 12:47 PM (18 hours ago)



to me ▾

I have two stepsons in 1st and 3rd grades at Beaver Creek elementary school.

This is my first foray into elected office however I am no stranger to the educational system as I am a former computer teacher and am in my sixth season as a high school varsity cheerleading coach.

ROB CLAMP:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rob Clamp** <robforocschools@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 10:17 AM

Subject: Re: Questions for upcoming article on OCSD, Position #6

To: Debbie Ethell <debbieethell@gmail.com>

Hello Debbie,

To answer your 5 questions:

- 1) I would ask for as much information as possible to make a clear and informed decision.
- 2) Yes, I would take the time to read all reports relating to any investigation I was asked to render a decision on. I would ask questions about any information I received on the investigation if it was unclear.
- 3) I am comfortable with standing up against fellow board members and/or the Superintendent if I disagree with any issue. A school board should have different opinions and will benefit from an exchange of ideas.
- 4) I feel comfortable addressing my concerns if I feel district policies are not being followed.
- 5) I am committed and currently reading all Oregon City School District #62 policies. As a new board member currently serving on the board, I feel it is my obligation to learn all the policies as quickly as possible. This is to ensure I can do the best job to represent all students in the district equally and fairly.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer these questions.

Very Respectfully,

Rob Clamp

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 10:21 AM Rob Clamp <robforocschools@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Debbie,

There was one word that was misspelled. I have underlined the word in question #2. It should be "render"

Thank you for your time.

Rob Clamp

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 12:32 PM Debbie Ethell <debbieethell@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Mr. Clamp.

Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions. I have noted the misspelled word. Can you remind me again of the name of the school board member whose position you filled? I would like to give a bit of background of each candidate who took the time to answer my questions. Also, do you have any children in the district and have you ever held a position in public office before?

Best,
Debbie

← **Rob Clamp**

Apr 19, 2021, 1:49 PM (17 hours ago)



to me ▾

Hello Debbie,

Thank you for noting the mis-spelling - I went to correct the error and hit the space bar and sent the email accidentally.

I am running for Oregon City School Board #6 - which I was appointed to in March to fill the gap that was left by Scott Dahlman.

A little bit of background:

I am a native of the Northwest - living in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington growing up.

Enlisted in the Air Force out of High School. Got the opportunity to go to the Air Force Academy. Was an Aircraft Maintenance Officer, station mainly on the East Coast. Traveled the world while serving.

Worked for Amazon.com in Fernley, NV, then at Kaiser Aluminum in Spokane, Washington. Got my MBA while attending night school at Eastern Washington University - graduated in 2013.

Moved to Oregon in October of 2013 to start working for Dave's Killer Bread. Moved to Oregon City in January of 2014. Currently the General Manager of Dave's Killer Bread in Milwaukie, OR

I have two daughters in the Oregon City School District.

I am currently serving as Oregon City School Board Director #6 - this is my first public office position.

Very Respectfully,

Rob Clamp