



Olathe Public Schools

JAN 25 2024

11:15 p.m.

Olathe Public Schools Board of Education Application

Current Board of Education Opening: District 3, Position 6
Applicants must live in District 3 to apply.

Please read the following details about the application process:

- Deadline to submit the application is 10 a.m. on January 29, 2024.
- All applications must be hand delivered to the Education Center.
 - o **Barb Behm, Clerk of the Board of Education**
14160 Black Bob Rd.
Olathe, KS 66063
913-780-7000
- Applications must include proof of residency for District 3 – Board of Education Map
- Applications must include a copy of a government issued Identification Card.
 - I acknowledge that I live in District 3, Olathe KS and will need to provide proof of residency and a copy of a government issued Identification Card.

Name: Norman Mallicoat

Address: 10985 S Glenview LN Olathe KS. 66061

Preferred Phone Number: 9135937355

Occupation: Retired Telecom Engineer

Current Place of Employment: Retired

Email Address: nmallicoat@gmail.com

Applicant Signature

Norman Mallicoat

Date

1/26/24



Questions (Please limit responses to 500 words or less):

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Olathe Public Schools Board of Education member?

I am interested in serving as a Board of Education member to preserve and improve the standard of education of Olathe's students. I had three children that were educated in the system and I believe received a good elementary and secondary education and are very successful adults working in their chosen fields. One of my sons has Attention Deficit Syndrome and was served in a Special Education program at Mahaffie and Santa Fe Trail. He was identified and received the attention and guidance he needed. He is now a Mechanical and Nuclear Engineer working at Kiewit Engineering in Lenexa. Teachers make the difference in young lives and my son is an example who after struggling through elementary school finally blossomed at Santa Fe trail. I want to contribute to the continued excellence of the district.



2. Why do you think public education is important?

Public education is the foundation of a liberal democracy. It teaches each new generation about how a democratic society functions, the roles of elected officials and responsibility of citizenship. Public education teaches a common and generally accepted history of the founding and evolution of American society and the United States of America. A shared understanding of our constitution and how a democracy should function is why the United States of America has been a longstanding stable democracy. Without a shared understanding and agreement of the people this nation or any nation can never negotiate the peaceful transfer of governmental power. Public education creates opportunity for social mobility. A foundational part of the American mythos is social mobility yet without free or nearly free public education is absolutely impossible. Education is composed of foundational learnings and without the foundation further education and career advancement is impossible with the exception of a few outliers. The United States is an increasingly diverse nation yet the social circle of many families is not. Often the first experience students have with students of other races and cultures is in school. In a safe and cooperative learning environment they will become comfortable working with others that are not of their race or cultural background. Often private schools do not reflect the diversity of the nation. Public schools offer services to students of additional needs such as Special Education, reduced price lunches, Gifted Student education and school nurse health services. Since private schools can choose who they admit these services are not always provided.



3. How do you anticipate supporting the district's mission and strategic plan?

I support the aspirational goals as stated in the districts strategic plan. I am a retired former manager and engineer at Sprint and Nokia. I have worked in a highly technical and diverse workplace with engineers of many ethnicities and cultures. In addition to technical knowledge knowing how to work in a cooperative business environment is of great importance. Social intelligence, written communication and technical expertise are absolutely essential to success of our graduates. I am particularly interested in Goal 3 Human Resources as retention of an outstanding teaching staff is of absolute importance and Goal 4 Effective Resource Management as I have managed large capital projects with financial responsibility. Technology can be a force multiplier but also can be a costly failure if incorrectly applied to the problem space.



4. Please share about yourself and your current role in the school district, community, and civic involvement.

I have no role in the school district other than being a parent of three former students and appreciated the education they were provided and wish to continue this tradition. I am a former Scoutmaster of Troop 412 in Olathe. Although this is a non-partisan office in full disclosure I am a Democrat Precinct Leader and have been forthrightly involved in support of candidates that strongly support public education for all regardless of race, religion, or gender identification. One of my grown children and a distinguished graduate of the Olathe school system is a trans woman now. I am a member of PFLAG. PFLAG this is no longer an acronym. It originally was Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays but now includes trans genders. Students struggling with issues of gender and sexually identity can often feel depressed and disconnected from school, fellow students and the social experience of high school. My trans daughter went from being happy and somewhat extraverted to reclusive during the sophomore year of high school. We always suspected something had changed but our child would never speak of her feelings. Suddenly all the peers wanted to date and she knew something was very different about her. She could never tell us until many years later. I have met students that have transitioned in high school although my own child did not. I also have lived some of the confusing journey of the parents.



5. In your opinion, what is the role of a Board of Education?

The role of the school board is primarily the establishment of policy and review for compliance in the following areas:

- Annual budget
- School district goals
- Advocacy for public education
- Approving curriculums
- Contracts and fiscal accountability
- Communication with the community
- Evaluation of instruction and education
- Financial and property management
- Monitoring for compliance with district policies
- Monitoring student achievement



6. What is the role of individual Board members?

Individual board members although often having strong personal views must remember they are part of a team elected to manage the school system in the best public interest and try to manage as best as possible by consensus. Maintenance of professional relationships and "doing your homework" is an absolute necessity. Wasting the time of other members of the board due to a lack of preparation or harboring a hidden agenda is to be avoided. Board members must always conduct themselves in compliance with transparency policies of the board and district.



7. Why do you believe you should be appointed to the Olathe Public Schools Board of Education and what would be your three highest priorities?

I have been teacher and mentor for my entire life just not in a school district. I have been instructor in the Army and at Sprint. I have taught and mentored younger members of technical staff many of which were in their early twenties fresh out of community college or university. I have managed large capital projects from business case to implementation. I have raised a child that needed Special Education services and experienced another child's transition from male to female. My wife was an elementary school nurse in the past. Although I am not a nurse every evening at dinner, I would get to hear about the work day of a school nurse and the special medical needs kids that need nurses' attention daily. I know I am an old boomer but I am retired and have the passion and time for the position.

1. Teacher retention and reduction of burn out.

2. Effective use of technology without throwing tech at every problem. I have seen costly failures in my 40 some odd years and IT and Telecom.

3. Counseling services with an emphasis on Market Value Assets and what the future world of work will look like with wide scale use of Artificial Intelligence.



8. Please share anything else you would like the Board of Education to know about you.

(End of Application)