



October 4, 2022

Inga Dainius

VIA EMAIL –

FOIA 22-58 received 9/30/2022

Subject: Any documentation such as applications submitted to temporarily replace/fill Oswego School District 308 Board of Education President Donna Marino position.

Dear Mr. Dainius:

This letter serves as Oswego Community Unit School District 308's response to your FOIA 22-55 request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) in which you asked for the above referenced information.

Attached is our response to your request.

To promote district transparency and assist others who may have a similar question, go to www.sd308.org and select *Our District > Freedom of Information Act Request > FOIA Request Responses > FOIA Requests Responses -2022*.

Please be advised that to comply with your FOIA request, the district incurred an expense that comprised of the cost of labor and resources used to search for records responsive to your request. Let me know if you have additional questions.

Thank you.

John Petzke

John Petzke
Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Freedom of Information Officer

Last Name (Legal)	First Name (Legal)	Do you meet all of the criteria?	In your opinion, what is the purpose and role of public education?	Have you ever been employed by any school district (whether public, private, parochial or charter school)? If yes, what was your role?	Have you ever served on a not-for-profit board or advisory committee? If so, which one?	Why are you applying for the open SD308 BOE seat?	What professional skills/talent/experience/expertise will you bring to the SD308 BOE?	The role of a board member requires a significant commitment of time (attending board meetings, co-chairing advisory committees, meeting with constituents, intergovernmental meetings, etc.). Do you have the time to commit to the SD308 BOE?	Do you plan on running for the SD308 BOE once this term expires (in 2023)?	What are the current SD308 BOE priorities as you understand them?	What is the role of a school board in creating a budget and levying property taxes?	What is the difference between school board governance and school administration? Feel free to give specific examples.	Are you now or have you ever been in a lawsuit against SD308?	If there is anything else you would like to share with the SD308 BOE please share here.
Johnson	Kevin	Yes	<p>The purpose and role of public education is to provide our youth with the necessary skills and ability to properly assess how they can add value and be able to formulate thought provoking positive opinions and ideas towards the solving of ongoing issues within their communities. Foster the desire to share that knowledge in raising the level of understanding for all within the community as together all things can be accomplished.</p> <p>The purpose and role of public education is to share the truth of our history with the love and kindness to gain full comprehension. As only then can we have hope to progress and not repeat the past.</p> <p>And also to serve the needs of the community by providing a safe and healthy environment for all students to excel.</p>	No	No	I am applying to utilize my skill sets in a positive manner towards assisting the BOE team with the difficult issues of today.	I am a Sr. Vice President within a Fortune 300 financial institution and possess the necessary skill sets and experiences required to tackle difficult issues without bias to best serve the holistic best interests of the community, faculty and the Board of Education.	Yes	Yes	To uphold the current policies of the state of Illinois and be a part of a team that believes in continuous improvement of the public education system to meet the changing needs of the communities that we serve.	To best align the budget towards meeting the priorities agreed upon by the budget committee. I am not positive regarding the levying of property taxes but shall research.	Governance is the measurement of expectations to ensure that goals are on target to be achieved. School administration follows the plans established and are task oriented towards goal achievement.	No	After attending the last few Board meetings; I know that my experiences and partnership attitude would add value to the overall organization. I felt the passion and pain of the other Board members in dealing with very difficult issues. I want to be part of the solution and not the problem if you will have me.
Nicholson	Andrew	Yes	Public education serves the community - whether that community be a subdivision, a city, a county, a state, or a country - to have an educated populace. Educated people are curious, well rounded, self-evaluating, and kind. Public education, available to all, enables the community to foster good citizenship, a desire to grow, and a drive for justice in our children. Our kids live in a world that is growing increasingly chaotic, dangerous, and expanding; our public schools should be helping them learn to thrive in this environment.	I have not.	Yes. I am a member of my employer's DEI committee, in the Talent sub-committee, which helps advise senior management in hiring and employee advancement & recognition efforts, and I am a deputy to the Corporate DEI Officer for the Society for Creative Anachronism, helping to guide a 25,000 paid-member multinational organization in issues related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.	I want to help our kids be the best they can be. We live in a world that has become increasingly politicized. I want to help the School Board in D308 to apply the best possible teaching, communication, and safety protocols to our schools, in order to help our children learn not just facts, but how to communicate them and utilize them in their daily lives during and after they are in our schools. I believe that incorporating Social & Emotional Learning, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and DEI Concepts are key to this, and as a member of the Board, I will help parents, teachers, and students understand why.	I am a certified project manager, able to evaluate requirements to determine effort and cost to complete, as well as issues resolution, risk evaluation, change management, and communications. I am trained in facilitation, conflict resolution, and professional coaching. I work for DEI offices in my professional and personal lives. I'm well versed in helping teams to coalesce and grow. I'm organized, I'm rarely late for anything, I communicate well both verbally and in text, I'm forthright, I'm professional, I'm comfortable with people in-person and virtually, and I'm well educated. Please see my attached resume for more details.	Yes	Yes	Pandemic and other Safety Concerns District Budgets & Funding of Core and Extracurricular Activities Staffing & Facilities Issues Transportation Capital Projects	The School Board is required to pass a Levy each fall to determine how much money is needed for educational and operational/maintenance purposes, per the Illinois School Code. This is necessary to keep schools open, because the State of Illinois funds less than 1/3 of the cost of education. In order to decide the Levy amount, the School Board works with the administrations of each school to determine what is needed and how much it costs, and evaluates the needs against the EBF Adequacy and Local Capacity Targets, as well as state grants, property values in the district, tax rates, and enrollment. The Board prioritizes costs, and works in committees to present a budget, and then set and vote on the Levy amount, which is then administered by local governments. This is a critical responsibility of the School Board, and it must be pursued from a position of seeking to do the best possible job for our schools.	The School Board acts as the C-Level officers of a corporation, and each individual School Administration acts as Management. The School Board sets policy with input from the different School Administrations, and the School Administrations implement that policy in individual schools with teachers, staff and students. The School Board works to get the School Administrations what they need to do so.	No	I know that the past two years, particularly, have been extremely difficult for schools all over the country. I also know that the School Board can never please everyone on any issue. I want to help the SD308 School Board do the best possible job I can for the people inside our school buildings every day. I want to be a team-builder, helping us all work together to make school be as good as it can be for our children.
H	Kope	Yes	To help everyone learn	My role has been employed as a math teacher at 205	Not yet!	Since I am ready for fun!	Helping everyone making them feel great as we go in!	Yes	Maybe	Being a good worker!	Helping!	To not be a bad worker!	No	
Ploger	Jared	Yes	The role of public education is a balance between the individual needs and the needs that individual will need in order to navigate through our evolving society. It is the role of the public education system to assist each child reach their full potential. Just as our society is diverse, so will the learners who enter our buildings. It is imperative that our goals include a focus on being well-rounded as well as mastery of academic content. The balance includes students obtaining the skills necessary to be life long learners, productive and constructive citizens, while navigating through the social and legal fabric of our society as it evolves including being an active member of that evolution.	I have been employed by the Valley View School District since 2008. I have been both a middle school and high school teacher while employed there. During my time in middle school, I taught both language arts and social studies. I obtained my Masters Degree with an emphasis on Reading Specialist. At the high school level, I have taught, American Studies, AP Government, and Social Justice classes. While employed in that School District, I have embraced leadership roles that have NOT included administration, whenever called upon to do so. Some of those leadership roles have included	Yes! SD 308 School Board, SD 308 Teaching and Learning Committee, SD 308 Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Long Beach Home and School, City of Aurora GAR Commissioner, Founding Member of the Oswego Kiwanis, IESA Scholastic Bowl Committee	I believe my prior experience on the Board and my extensive background serving the community in Wheatland Township, SD308, and the area can be an asset to the Board. Equally, as someone who is a lifelong resident of this area and whose family stretches back generations in this area, I believe my background in the past along with a desire to move us into the future is the type of balance needed to understand how to get us to where we need to be. I have dedicated a great deal of my time and efforts in making our communities a better place for our future and our greatest asset in this community remains and will always be our kids. There is no better place and no nobler place to serve than in our schools.	We have many talented individuals in this community and each one of them will bring something to the table, that is for sure. I think there are three things that will set me apart from anyone else that will enter their name. First, I have School Board experience. However, not just School Board experience, I have IASB Award recognized experience. While serving on the SD 308 Board, the Illinois Association of School Board's recognized my achievements as a Level I Master Board Member in 2018. Second, I bring with me the experiences of past Board decisions, discussions, and topics that others will not have at their disposal in addition to my years of educational experience in another District as well as interactions with other School Districts. Finally, I eliminate the need for training on the intricacies of being a School Board	Yes	Yes	The Board has developed the Envision 308 Plan. What we do should be guided by that plan and referenced back to that plan. That said, there are a few things that are always on my mind. I am always mindful and aware of achievement gaps and looking at research guided ways to close those gaps while raising everyone's overall educational experience. In addition, our first and highest priority has to be to secure the safety of our students. These goals all can only be accomplished by reaching and maintaining financial stability. We will have to balance the need to increase reserves for long term security and stability while ensuring we are able to fund initiatives that are imperative to the experience of our students over the short, medium and long term.	The Administration is charged with creating the budget. However, that budget should be reflective of priorities set by the Board. It's the job of the Board to make sure that the budget is reflective of those priorities and approve the budget accordingly. The levying process is the board approving the request for revenues in the form of property taxes required for the operation of the district. The maximum a District can levy is 4.99% OR CPI, as SD 308 is a capped District. Any levy beyond 5% would need approval from the voters directly.	It is the job of the board to guide through policies, goals, and direction. It is the job of Administration to execute that guidance. As an example, if the board decided that the education of local civics and governance was a priority of the Board, it would be up to Administration to develop curriculum, and how to utilize staff properly in creating the framework necessary in making that priority come to fruition.	No	While serving on the Board previously, I found it extremely rewarding working collaboratively with various stakeholders. That involved such aspects as, visiting schools to see the awesome talents of students and staff, listening to community members, working with fellow Board Members, and exchanging learning opportunities with Administration.

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Coulman	Kirsten	Yes	The role of public education has changed since its inception. It originally was intended to train students to become skilled workers while instilling in them the traditional core academic disciplines such as reading, writing, arithmetic, and being a good citizen. Today, I believe the intention of teaching the basics is still present, but there are some additions, such as providing an all-encompassing experience including social-emotion health. Students today are offered many options in various topics to study in order to have the experience and choice when making decisions about their futures. Not all students attend college, but the opportunities and experiences offered today provide other paths to being a productive citizen, such as the trades and military service. The ultimate goal is to prepare these young people for life by transforming them into independent and functional citizens.	Yes, I hold a Professional Educators License with endorsements in Middle School English Language Arts, Science and Social Science and have been employed by multiple school districts as a daily and long-term substitute teacher.	Yes, I am currently on the Policy and Legislative Committee. I have also been a member of my Church Council, the South Suburban Hospital Philanthropy Committee, the Martin Manor Auxiliary and the Churchill School Gala Committee.	I am applying for the open SD308 BOE seat because I feel that this is my last opportunity to contribute to the district while I still have a student attending. We all have a vested interest in the success of the district for a variety of reasons, but my number one reason is to have an education system that works in harmony between students, teachers, staff, and parents/guardians. I believe that I can provide thoughtful consideration, as well as insight from a variety of professional experiences, when weighing the decisions that must be made by the BOE. Additionally, my goal is to make a positive impact on the outcomes that affect the students, staff, teachers, and families of this district.	I have had the pleasure of obtaining a variety of talents and skills over the years as I have worked in many different areas including medicine, insurance, local/municipal government, education, business, human resources, and a classification society. What I have learned in all these different industries is the drive to learn, to be patient, know your resources, trust your instinct, and be caring and understanding when dealing with people. I am a life-long learner and appreciate the need to learn and expand my knowledge. If I don't know something, I'm not afraid to ask questions or find my own answer; I have become a really good researcher over the years. I work well with people, but I am also organized, thoughtful, love excel spreadsheets, and believe in completing a job to the best of my ability the first time.	Yes	Maybe	I understand the current BOE priorities are to ensure students receive their constitutionally-protected right to a free and public education while being fiscally responsible. Additionally, I understand there is a plan in place (Envision 308) to reach targeted goals in student learning, student support, finance/facilities, and community. While all the topics are considered priorities, it has to be achieved in a responsible and thoughtful manner.	I believe the administration creates the budget and the role of the school board is to evaluate, discuss, possibly modify, and approve a responsible final product. The board is to ensure the goals of the district are met in a financially beneficial and fiscal manner. There is a process board has to follow when requesting have property taxes levied. I understand the board approves the request for the taxes they believe will be required to operate the district.	School board governance creates and provides the policies, goals and path the district is to follow. The administration enforces the policies and creates programs to ensure the goals are met. The Policy & Legislative Committee looks at the policies to see if amendments are necessary due to changing times and/or law changes. The policy is discussed, voted on, and then sent to the board for final approval. The administration has a clear direction when enforcing the updated policy.	No	We all have a vested interest in making SD308 the best it can be! I want to be a part of a responsible and thoughtful group that looks out for our children and the future children of this district. I believe the board has a responsibility to partner with all the stakeholders to ensure those priorities are met. I define stakeholders as anyone affected by decisions made for this school district: students, teachers, staff, parents/guardians, and the communities within our district boundaries. Additionally, this board should provide teachers and staff with the tools required to ensure the needs and goals are met of every student in the district.