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7 applicants for U-46 seat not interviewed

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Seventeen people applied to fill a vacancy on the District U46 School Board, but only 10 of the applicants were granted interviews by the school board, records show.

The board spoke with candidates Thursday and Friday night in anticipation of choosing one to fill the seat previously held by Traci O'Neal Ellis, who resigned in April. Her successor must be appointed by June 7, 45 days after her resignation, per state law.

The names and resumes of the seven people not given interviews were obtained through a [Freedom of Information Act](#) request filed by The Courier-News. The applicants are:

- Ciera Chancellor, of [Elgin](#), a military veteran who currently works as a procurement category lead for Abbott Labs;
- Winfried Cooper, of [Elgin](#), whose resume lists employers as CVS Pharmacy and Ace Hardware;
- Randall Hodges, of [Elgin](#), a former principal of Larsen Middle School and Ronald O'Neal Elementary School;
- Glen Holland, of [Elgin](#), an executive with IBM's Technology Consulting Practice;
- Beatrice Smith, of [Elgin](#), whose most recent employment was as executive director of a faith-based workplace mentoring group in Ohio;
- Khurram Syed, of [Bartlett](#), a manager for OfficeMax/Office Depot and unsuccessful candidate for the Bartlett Park Board in 2017;
- Shaylon Walker, of [Elgin](#), principal of the Proviso Area for Exceptional Children in Maywood and former assistant principal at the Cambridge Lakes Charter School in School District 300.

The candidates who were interviewed are Eva Porter, of Hanover Park, a trustee for the Poplar Creek Public Library District Board and a former teacher and teacher representative for the Schaumburg Education Association; Lisa Klimek, of Streamwood, a former booster club president for Streamwood High School who works in billing for the transportation industry; Preet Mittal, of [Bartlett](#), an environmental specialist for the [Metro](#) Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago active in parent groups and councils at Liberty Elementary School, Kenyon Woods Middle School, and [Bartlett High School](#); John Devereux, of [Bartlett](#), employed as a chief actuary for Ryan Specialty Group in Chicago and father of a [Bartlett High School](#) senior; and Kevin Sweeney, of [Elgin](#), a member of the U46 Citizens' Advisory Council and a programmer/analyst for Deutsche Investment Management Americas in Chicago.

Also, Thomas Ashton, of [Wayne](#), a sales director for Walsworth Publishing and father of three students attending high school in U46; Cecilia Diaz, of [Elgin](#), employed as a seasonal tax specialist with H&R Block and a board member for the Fox Meadow Elementary School PTO; Nazneen Hashmi, of [Streamwood](#), an adjunct professor in information technology and management at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago; Kate Thommes, of [Elgin](#), a former U46 teacher who now teaches at [Elgin Community College](#) and a member of the Citizens' Advisory Council for U46; and Jocelyn Vana, of [Bartlett](#), board chairwoman for nonprofit The Lost Boyz Inc. and a budget and procurement manager for the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.

The school board has not discussed publicly what they are seeking in a new member or the criteria used in choosing the applicants interviewed.