

Six in running for Colby School Board seats

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town routes. Carter says the board terms are for four years for a reason, and that staying as long as 10 years might be too long. "Maybe it's time for a change," he said. Because he presently has children in Colby schools, he said, that might give him an insight into what the school needs. Caleb is a freshman at Colby High School and Cayla is a sixth grader at Colby Middle School.

Dale Vap, 55, and his wife, Shirley, have an adult daughter, Michele. Vap said he attended Butler County Junior College for two years, majoring in business. He and his wife own their own business, Vap Distributing, a dairy and frozen food delivery business.

Vap said he feels the biggest challenge facing Colby schools will be the budget, due to the cuts in support from the state.

"I think one way Colby schools could save money would be to go to a four-day school week," he said. "They could do that by adding one hour a day to the four days."

"I think most people have been pretty happy with the way things have been going so far, but they'll have a challenge next year due to those budget cuts. They might have to make cuts in the areas of transportation and heating in order to save."

Gerald (Gerry) Curtis Fulwider, 59, and his wife, Lamoreaux, have one son, Curtis, 19, a freshman at Washburn University.

Fulwider graduated from high school in Topeka and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration with a major in finance and economics at Wich-

ita State University. He has retired as director of the Thomas County Economic and Development Alliance.

"I have served on the Colby school board for 12 years now," he said, "and I considered dropping out this year and letting someone else take their turn, but with the budget cuts, the economic downturn and everything being in such an extreme state of flux right now, I changed my mind."

"We have always tried to do what was best for the students, but now we will have to... try to be more efficient. Who knows, it might even do us some good."

Fulwider said he didn't always agree with everything the board has done, but a member of the board needs to support the majority and stand by them.

"There are always a few people who complain," he said, "but I think most people in Colby have been happy... the past few years."

Fulwider said he has represented the Colby board at Kansas Association of School Boards meetings.

"If I get re-elected, I hope my expertise and experience will help guide the Colby school board through these difficult times," he said.

Tracy Rogers, 47, and his wife, Robin, have two children, Garrett, 17, a junior at Colby High School, and Madison, 13, a seventh grader at Colby Middle School.

Rogers said he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University with a major in physical education. He works in inventory control at Frontier Ag.

"I'm re-running for the school board to continue to provide good education for our kids," he said, adding that he felt the biggest challenge this year would be mon-

ey and the drop in enrollment.

"We usually plan for a 4 percent drop in enrollment," he said, "but I think we are going to have to look farther into the future and plan for about five years...."

"I think people are mostly happy with the job we've been doing. We get a few calls, but they are mostly about sports. We get very few about education."

"We have a great staff at Colby schools, and they know we're going to have to make some cuts and be more efficient."

He added that they try to make cuts that will least effect the kids.

Susan McLamore and her husband Bob, Colby fire chief, have three boys, Ryan, 25, recently married to Samantha Wolf of Colby, and twins Brandon and Blake.

Ryan works for ConAgra in Hastings, Minn. Brandon is attending Fort Hays State University while Blake is attending Kansas State University. Both twins hope to come back to Colby to set up businesses after college, she said.

McLamore studied at Colby and Barton County community colleges and is an occupational therapist assistant for Aegis Therapies, which contracts her services out to area hospitals.

"I decided to run for the school board," McLamore said, "because we already have a good team and I just want to make sure it stays that way with all these budget cuts."

"It looks like Superintendent (Terrel) Harrison has some great

ideas, and I've been very happy with the high school principal, Mr. (Don) Krebs, and Athletic Director (Larry) Gabel, too. We have a good administration and a good staff."

McLamore said she wants to work to keep a good environment for kids to avoid problems with drugs and alcohol, and she sees that as one of the biggest challenges for the schools. She supports bringing in speakers in to help kids realize that sitting around doing nothing isn't productive, and that they will be happier if they are accomplishing something. The schools can also work more towards motivating kids to learn, she said.

As far as the budget problems are concerned, she added, she thinks the district should reassess in-town busing, because that is a service that not many schools offer. She said she hopes the lack of money won't affect the quality of the teaching staff.

"We have excellent teachers now," she said, "and I hope we can keep them all."

Janice Frahm is running for her second term. She said she thinks the most important task of the board as making sure that students receive a quality education.

The biggest challenge at present, she said, is the state budget deficit, which threatens support for all public schools. The board will need to make wise and sometimes difficult decisions, she said. Members need to stay informed as the

Legislature wrestles with the budget crisis. The board must make changes necessary to stay within the money it gets, while minimizing the impact on students' education.

Ask if she thinks voters are satisfied with the board, Frahm said people are always free to contact members with concerns and opinions. She said she is pleased with the board's performance, feeling that members are well informed and committed to making decisions necessary to maintain an optimum environment for students, faculty and the community.

"In my first term

....," she says, "I've served as alternate ... representative to the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center board and have learned a great deal attending their meetings. I was appointed to the state Board of Education's Special Education Advisory Council and attend six meetings annually."

"I have attended all four of the Kansas Association of School Board annual conventions, and find them a great way to stay on top of issues and stretch my capabilities as an effective board member. I'm pleased by how interesting and challenging being a board member has been."

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