



**AMBER QUIRK**  
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**04.29.2024 Regional Board of School Trustees**  
**Closed Session Minutes**  
**Closed Session Start: 7:31**

**Closed Session** pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) – Consideration of the selection of persons to fill one vacancy on the Regional Board of School Trustees. There were three candidates that expressed an interest in serving on the RBST. The candidates were: Carolyn Carrillo of Elmhurst, Christina Berry of West Chicago, and Jennifer Scarpace of Winfield. Marylee Leu made a motion at 7:31 to move into closed session. John Huff seconded. All members present voted aye. Motion Passed. The board moved into closed session to conduct interviews for the vacancy on the RBST.

The closed session is for the purpose of interviewing three candidates.  
Suggested interview questions and each candidate’s resume were provided to the board members ahead of time.  
Do you reside in Dupage County?  
Are you a member of any school board?  
Are you a school board employee?  
No you hold any county office?

**Candidate 1:**

**Name: Carolyn Carrillo**  
Do you reside in Dupage County? No  
Are you a member of any school board? No  
Are you a school board employee? No  
No you hold any county office? No

**Traditional Questions:**

Caroline lives in York Township.  
Take a few moments to introduce yourself -  
Hi...lived in DuPage County most of my life and run a children’s literacy non profit organization...in part of Dupage that borders Cook and am aware of issues there as well. I would like to contribute my efforts in DuPage County...transition in my own life - I have children who are young adults... Something like this is interesting, but not an every-week commitment...I volunteered for several organizations - I deliver food, literacy, landscaping at my church with my son...I work part-time and am looking for a new job maybe. Education is important in our community and we all do something to support it.

1. Tell us what you believe is the role of the board of trustees.  
From what I gathered, the Board of Trustees does things related to school boundary issues - homes students going from one district to another, property from one district to another or joint agreements.
2. Have you ever served on a Board, elected or appointed?  
Other than for my own non-profit, no.
3. You mentioned you worked in service/retail, What skills do you possess that makes you qualified for this job?  
What other qualifications do you possess that would lend itself to this position? I was kind of thinking about that - come to



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me that I am the employee at work when the customer is not communicating very well with the employee...I am working with some of the other employees on how to listen better...address the issue rather than talking around it...I have a skill and am able to get to the root issues - help people come together to find a solution...maybe different board members with different opinions...find common ground and come together...

4. What inspired you to start the non-profit?

...I always had books with my kids...started looking into it and we could be doing more. I didn't see other non-profits with the same vision - low cost with community engagement. I didn't see anyone working within the community to break the cycle of illiteracy. When you don't read at a higher level or go to the library - using different things like laundromat story time...things in the community to get parents involved. Come along side the schools.

#### **Candidate 2:**

**Name: Jennifer Scarpace**

Do you reside in Dupage County? Yes, Winfield

Are you a member of any school board? No

Are you a school board employee? No

No you hold any county office? No

#### **Traditional Questions:**

Introduce yourself and tell us something we don't see on paper.

I have lived in Winfield for 4 years - from Naperville during COVID - interesting. Now my daughter is ready to graduate from 8th grade. I have been involved in PTA and other events, and am more interested in getting involved in more community work. National experience with advocacy and lobbying. I enjoy it. Resume states >20 years working within the educational system and government programs and special project groups.

5. Why are you interested in this board position?

Personal and professional - having worked within the school system for so long and family members with special needs - own daughter going through transition of one school to another - a role on families - impact long term; important to be a part of

6. Tell us what you believe is the role of the board of trustees.

I believe it is similar to what I have done in my career - assessing the situation and the primary issues and gather as much information is possible - come to conclusion - weigh the impact and the consider the legislation

7. What skills do you possess that makes you qualified for this job? What other qualifications do you possess that would lend itself to this position?

The 20 years of experience of the educational arena, clinical expertise, working in teams and projects, identify issues and find solutions. Multi-disciplinary team...government programs in and out of schools to identify the solutions.

Currently in BCBS - Team setting?

Care Coordination - couple times a month, but mainly going into members' homes - collaborating with outside organizations, work with families about resources and return to staffing about issues we need other solutions for

Looks like you have student conflict?

Yes, in alternative school - 10x /hour - resolve on a regular business



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College Degree? Psychology with a health focus; DV and Sexual Assault training as well as organizational developments

John and Marylee agreed Jennifer has a very impressive resume.

**Candidate 3:**

**Name: Christina Berry**

Do you reside in Dupage County? Yes, Winfield

Are you a member of any school board? No

Are you a school board employee? No

No you hold any county office? No

**Traditional Questions:**

Introduce yourself and talk about what we don't see on paper.

I grew up in West Chicago - was a teacher through the ROE for 17-18 years; Worked with the Ministry of education through the US state department...did teacher training overseas...traveled and taught in Poland during the pandemic...working with a British international school...father passed away, mother became ill - moved back to West Chicago - moved back to home I grew up in...needed to recover; I work from home in admissions for an online institution - work for Senator Karina Villa - give back and learn some things myself. Great to see things in action. I wondered what the background information is...

8. Why are you interested in this board position?  
Looking to give back

9. Tell us what you believe is the role of the board of trustees.  
It is to hear cases such as those and make decisions that are best for the families impacted by the changes.

10. Have you ever served on a Board, elected or appointed? No.

11. What skills do you possess that makes you qualified for this job? What other qualifications do you possess that would lend itself to this position?

Living in Lithuania I had to do some needs assessment - how to structure a program - what PD I could offer - I understood how skilled I am at asking the right questions, putting information together and creating a plan...open to hearing other's perspectives and I come to my own conclusions, but can be objective when it comes to making decisions.

12. What is your experience with public/community service? Work with Senator Karina Villa

13. Talk about your experience in working on a team.  
I have worked on a lot of PLCs when teaching ...work with others...come to consensus...

14. What strategies do you use to reach consensus in decision making?  
To be honest, there are times when people have differences of opinion from time to time - reflect - admit when you make a mistake - gesture to explain you are humble. See how gathering more information can help. I try to be objective, but in a position like this, you may have to look for the greater good.

You have your BA in Elem Ed. Do you intend to return to a teaching role?



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Right now, I am enjoying what I am doing at home. So many things need to be improved in our educational system. That is part of why ...even though this board doesn't have influence over the schools, it would be good to learn...I liked teaching...

You grew up here? And studied in Columbia?

Yes, here in West Chicago - D33; Taught English to adults in New York - working and living after was wonderful.

You have traveled around the world. What was it like in Tanzania?

Friend from Columbia put her in touch with a small organization - wanted to contribute during my summers - price was right - went for a year and then went back for three summers. Basically, I did whatever they needed; Thought I would join a team from the UK - turned out I was the team. I was the eyes and ears of the organization. Most fulfilling - create a library - three sites and lacking Swahili materials - put together opp to get to the big city - catalog the materials - train local teachers to do read-a-louds to promote deeper thinking and literacy.

You also spent time in Lithuania? Yes....

What do you do for the State Senator? I canvass for her - when she was a rep and now as a senator. I went to high school with her. She is a good friend.

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Deliberation / Consideration

Jaye - we have three candidates.

Marylee - do we want to discuss them?

Jay - we can.

Marilyn - they were all great.

Paula - I liked the literacy for the first candidate; good to support the underprivileged...

Jay - yes, some children need a little bit more.

Marylee - my first thought on Carolyn's was real estate, but she has been out of it so long, it may not impact it. I personally like Jennifer and Christina's seem like they are more part of teams.

Marilyn - they all have those skills.

Marylee - Concern - Christina may want to return to education. John agreed. They all have volunteer experience - altruism.

Also, only one from Winfield for the future.

John Huff - when there is a vacancy, it will go on the ballot;

Marylee - but it might not default to 2025?

John - right, but 2025 would be up anyway

Marylee - any additional questions?

John Huff made a motion at 8:01 to return to open session, Marylee Leu seconded.

**Return to Open Session**