

Olofson honored for school board service

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



Kendon Olofson, eight-year member of Holyoke Re-1J Board of Education, was honored recently for his years of service.

At a regional meeting of the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) in Sterling last Thursday, Oct. 22, Olofson was presented a McGuffey Award.

Writing Olofson's nomination letter, on behalf of the whole school board, Linda Jelden noted community leaders are those who have a passion for giving and a commitment to excellence for the benefit of others. "Kendon Olofson certainly fits this definition."

Jelden noted in his current role as board president, Olofson is well-respected for his thoughtful and steady leadership style.

Colleagues describe Olofson as one who desires to do "what is best for the kids," noted the nomination letter. He has also been influential as the board's representative to the Northeast Colorado BOCES advisory board.

Olofson comes from a family with a tradition of community service. "When asked why he decided to run for the school board, he simply replied, 'It's what we do.'," said the nomination.

"He is to be commended for his many years of dedication to the students and families in the district."

Board members and Supt. Bret Miles attended last Thursday's regional meeting, acknowledging support for Olofson's recognition.

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Elected to the Re-1J board in 2001, Olofson is nearing the end of his second four-year term. Due to term limits, he is not eligible for re-election.

The CASB McGuffey Award (named after the McGuffey Readers) has been designed to honor that unique board member who brings to his/her board work both the head and the heart of committed and passionate service. Awards are made at the CASB regional meetings held in September and October.

First published in 1836, the McGuffey Readers rode the wave of western expansion. After the Civil War, they were standard schoolbooks in 37 states. The McGuffey Readers were a series of seven books with stories and poems that not only taught kids reading and grammar, but also helped them to develop good qualities.

It was one of the most widely used and influential textbooks of its time in transferring not only knowledge, but also certain virtues required to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society.