

School board candidates look forward to upcoming terms

Written by Chris Lee

Three candidates will be sworn into office at the Nov. 17 Re-1J school board meeting.

Incumbents Kris Camblin and Jeff Tharp return to the board and will be joined by Kim Killin. Kendon Olofson retires, having fulfilled his two-term limit.

Kim Killin



Joining the school board was something Killin always considered. After participating in a couple of different boards at the state and regional level she decided to get involved locally.

Killin is the chair of the State Transportation Commission and until recently was vice chair of the Republican River Conservation District which she is now a board member.

Killin said another reason for getting involved is some concerns of where school finances are heading on the state and federal level.

With three children in school, Austin, Alyssa and Kade, Killin thought it would be nice to get involved.

She said she is looking forward to getting elected officials involved here in Holyoke. She feels with her state and federal connections she will be capable of accomplishing that.

Killin works at Colver & Killin LLP. She and husband Troy also farm and are involved in a trucking company.

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After graduating from Holyoke in 1987, Killin went on to receive her undergraduate from Regis University and her Law Degree from Denver University.

Another reason of joining is so she can give back to the community. Killin said the school system treated her well and was a nice place to go to school. "The school system helped me pave my path," she added.

Kris Camblin



Kris Camblin returns after being a member of the board for three years. Camblin said he got involved three years ago after concerns with school finances were raised. "I thought it was important to get on the school board," he said. "I wanted to make sure I could help in any way that I could."

His decision to stay on the board came after a lot of community support. He said he had numerous phone calls from people telling him he should stay aboard. "I think the school is heading in the right direction and I like to make sure it keeps going in that direction," Camblin said.

He said one of his favorite parts about the board is when teachers attend the meetings and getting to meet them face to face and hear their concerns.

Camblin believes the transition of a new superintendent has been great and a good fit. "Bret has been a breath of fresh air to the school," he said. "He has a good leadership style and is fair

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with everybody.”

He added the school board has worked well together and have all become good friends. “I’m excited for Kim (Killin) to join,” he said. “I think she’ll be a good asset. I hate to lose Kendon because I think he brought a lot to the board.”

Camblin and wife Marla have two children in Holyoke Elementary School—Tyler and Kaylee. He is a construction foreman at Highline Electric.

Camblin calls two places home, Kremmling and Westcliffe. He graduated high school from Custer County and went into the military. He attended Colorado Aero Tech and received his A&P license. He recently went to NJC and received his associate’s degree.

Jeff Tharp



Jeff Tharp returns to the board after spending the last four years as a school board member.

Tharp got involved four years ago because he felt it was a duty and obligation to if one was interested or concerned with education or had children involved in the school system.

“I’ve always found it’s easier to sit back and criticize a board than actually be on it,” he said. “It’s good to experience being on it and understand the depth of the problems you come across.”

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Tharp also believes Supt. Miles has been a great addition and experienced a smooth transition.

Tharp believes the board is moving in the right direction but still has a rough road ahead, and he is eager to get to work with the board and Supt. Miles.

He mentioned thinking outside of the box and insuring the financial stability of the district is a goal. Working to come up with creative solutions to any concerns the district runs into is another goal.

“One more term can kind of put the final ribbon on the process and see how we turn out,” Tharp added.

Tharp attended the University of Wyoming where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1980 and master’s degree in 1982. He earned his D.V.M. in 1986 from Colorado State. Tharp works as a veterinarian for Holyoke Veterinary Service. His wife Theresa teaches 5th grade at Holyoke Elementary. He has four boys—Jarod, Dillon, Austin and Logan who is in 8th grade in Holyoke.