

JCTA announces endorsements

Backing 4 school board candidates

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The Jefferson County Teachers Association's political arm has endorsed two incumbents seeking re-election to the Jefferson Board of Education and is also backing two other candidates pursuing first-time positions on the school panel.

The endorsements by Better Schools of Kentucky, the 12-member political-endorsement committee of the teachers association, were made last week and disclosed Tuesday by Brent McKim, JCTA president. The association represents more than 6,000 Jefferson County public school teachers and staff.

The committee declined to endorse long-time incumbent District 6 board member Carol Haddad. Instead, it endorsed one of her rivals, Lisa Willner, a member of the Bellarmine University faculty and executive director of the Kentucky Psychological Association.

Four of the seven

board seats will be on the Nov. 4 ballot, including five candidates who filed for the District 3 seat held by Debbie Wesslund. She announced last spring that she wouldn't run for another term.

The three other board seats — District 2, held by David Jones; District 4, held by Chuck Haddaway; and District 7, held by Chris Brady — will not be on the ballot.

All board races will be decided by voting within each district, and all the races are nonpartisan, with four-year terms.

McKim gave this report on the endorsements:

» **District 1**, centered in western Louisville: Incumbent Diane Porter is unopposed, and McKim said the committee believed Porter "has done a good job, absolutely."

» **District 3**, centered in northeast Jefferson County. The group endorsed Stephanie Horne, a real estate attorney and a co-owner of a title company. She is married to Andrew Horne, who lost to U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth in the Democratic primary for the 3rd District seat in Congress in 2006.

McKim said the teacher group was impressed that Horne stressed the



Brent McKim

importance of the findings of the recent state audit that recommended administrative changes in the school system. He said Horne has been "doing her diligence, preparing herself by attending school board meetings and getting up to speed. ... She has the pulse of the district."

Other District 3 candidates are Jan Scholtz, Angela Moorin, Lee Bailey and Louis Scarpellini.

» **District 5**, based in south-central Jefferson County. McKim said the group endorsed incumbent Linda Duncan over opponents David Hittle and Richard O. Brown.

Duncan has been a member of the school board since 2006, including service as board vice chairwoman. She has taught English and social studies in the Jefferson County school system and also served as an assistant principal. She is an at-large director on the Kentucky School Boards Association.

» **District 6**, which covers much of the central

portion of the county. The committee endorsed Willner over opponents Haddad, Patrick John Hughes and John Defazio.

Haddad has served two stints on the Board of Education, from 1976 to 1980 and most recently since 1990, including several years as board chairwoman.

McKim said Willner got the nod because the endorsement group felt that, given her position on Bellarmine's psychology faculty, she would have extensive knowledge about college-preparedness issues. And the group, as was the case with Horne, was impressed with Willner's concern about enacting some of the recommendations of the state auditor's office.

McKim said the unanimous vote of the school board last week to keep the existing property tax rate to benefit the school system was not a factor in the endorsements. The JCTA had lobbied for an increase in the tax rate, but the school board held the line.

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