

DECLARE BOARD POSITION VACANCY
DISTRICT ZONE 6

Background/Discussion

At 5:28 p.m. on October 10, board leadership, the superintendent, and legal counsel were notified via email from Director Danielle Bethell that she was resigning her position as a Salem-Keizer Public Schools Board Director, effective immediately.

Oregon law, specifically Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 332.030 “Vacancy in Office of Director” governs declaring and filling board position vacancies in a variety of situations. The following subsections govern the SKPS board’s actions in filling the vacancy of Director Bethell upon her resignation:

(1) The district school board shall declare the office of a director vacant upon the happening of any of the following: (a) the death or resignation of the incumbent.

(4) When a vacancy is declared under subsection (1)(a), (b) or (d) to (f) of this section, the remaining member or members of the board shall meet and appoint a person to fill the vacancy. The person must satisfy the eligibility requirements under ORS 332.018 and, if the district is zoned, reside in the zone in which the vacancy occurs. A director appointed under this subsection shall serve to June 30 next following the next regular district election. At that election, a successor shall be elected to serve the remainder, if any, of the unexpired term to which the director was appointed. If the term to which the director was appointed expires June 30 next following the election of the successor, the successor shall be elected to a full term. In any case, the successor shall take office July 1 next following the election.

ORS 332.018 “Term of Office” subsection (2) further stipulates residency requirements as follows:

(2) No person shall be eligible to serve as director unless the person is an elector of the district and has resided therein for a period of one year immediately preceding the election or appointment.

ORS 332.016 “Employees Ineligible to Serve as Directors...” further stipulates restriction of district employment as a disqualifier:

(1) A person who is an employee of a school district may not serve as a member of the district school board for the district by which the employee is employed.

Per Oregon law, the first action the board must take is to declare a vacancy. The SKPS Board of Directors (Board), declares a vacancy on the Board as follows:

Vacancy: Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Board of Directors, Zone 6

The Board further intends to appoint a new director to fill the vacancy. In accordance with Oregon law, the new director will be appointed to fill the zone 6 position through June 30, 2023, which would have been the end of Director Bethell’s elected four-year term (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023). The regular election in May of 2023 will determine the successor who will serve the regular elected term from July 1, 2023, forward.

The Board will direct the district to develop an application process, including the application form, and receive applications. The application process will open by Friday, October 14, 2022, and close 5 p.m. Monday, October 31, 2022. Applications will be received via means that will be specified in the application material.

Per Oregon law (as outlined above), applicants must have the following qualifications to be considered for the position, and it will be the responsibility of the candidate to affirm these qualifications by signature on the application:

- Be a resident of Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Zone 6 (see [SKPS Board Zones Map](#) for reference), and have resided in the district, Zone 6, for a period of one year preceding appointment
- Be an “elector of the district” (registered voter of the district)
- Not be an employee of the district

Upon review of candidate applications, the Board will interview qualified applicants and take public comment at its November 8, 2022, regular board meeting. All qualifying applications will be included in the agenda packet for the meeting, which will be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Though personal contact information will be required on the application for affirming candidate qualifications, for security/privacy that information will be redacted in the agenda packet. If needed, the Board may hold a special board meeting on November 15, 2022, to finalize the decision.

Recommendation/Board Action

Board leadership recommends the Board take action as follows:

Declare a vacancy on the SKPS Board of Directors, Zone 6, and intent to appoint a new director to complete the term left vacant by the incumbent, which is through June 30, 2023; further, direct the district to develop an application process and receive applications on behalf of the board.