



February 27, 2018

MEMORANDUM



TO: Superintendent Addressed

FROM: Clyde W. Steelman, Jr., Executive Director

SUBJECT: Board Ballots for ESC Region 11 Board Election
Information on Board Member Candidates
Possible Write-Up for Board Members

Enclosed please find 7 ballots for your Board of Trustees for the election of ESC Region 11 Board of Directors. Your Board should vote on these candidates during your regular or special board meeting in March. Please return these ballots **BY CERTIFIED MAIL BY APRIL 5TH** using the enclosed self-addressed and postage-paid envelope.

When you receive your packet, please return the green domestic return receipt which is attached to your envelope so we know you received the packet.

Also enclosed is a short paragraph on each candidate who has filed for the ESC Region 11 Board of Directors.

Your Board is eligible to vote even if your district is not located in Tarrant, Johnson, Somervell, Erath, or Hood Counties. The members present at the March meeting shall vote. It is not necessary to get votes from absent members.

Thank you for your help with the Region 11 board election.

CS/nd

Enclosures

An Education Service Center (ESC) Board is composed of seven members elected by the boards of trustees of the school districts in the ESC region. Positions to be filled on the ESC Region 11 Board of Directors are Place 1, representing Johnson and Somervell Counties; and Place 4, representing Erath and Hood Counties, and Place 7, representing Tarrant County. Terms of office begin June 1, 2018.

Larry Blair is running unopposed for Place 1. Dennis Hughes and Rita Cook are running for Place 4. J.B. Morgan and Denise Kahn are running for Place 7.

According to BBB (LEGAL), "Each member of the board of trustees of each school district in the ESC region shall have one vote for each vacancy on the ESC Board of Directors. Completed ballots shall be returned to the Chair of the ESC Board of Directors by April 5."

A short paragraph on each candidate who has filed for the ESC Region Board of Directors is attached for your convenience.

Dr. Larry Blair

Larry Blair started his career in public education in 1968. Although he officially retired in 1999, he never quit the profession. During the years from then until now, he has worked in both large districts and very small districts, serving in such capacities as teacher, principal, central office administrator, and superintendent. He has taught in higher education and has worked in state associations and as an education lobbyist.

He looks forward to continuing the role of promoter of public education, knowing that the best hope for a democracy is a well-educated populace.

Dennis S. Hughes

Dennis S. Hughes is a lifelong educator with a total of 36 years of experience – 16 of those as a classroom teacher and the rest of his tenure as a school and central office administrator. He has served as Superintendent of Schools at Three Way ISD and Lingleville ISD. During his first year of retirement, he was selected as Interim Superintendent at Gordon ISD for several months. He has also been on the ESC Region 11 Board of Directors for the past three years. Outside of education, he is a founding member of Lingleville Volunteer Fire Department and was a member of the Ovilla City Council.

He lives in Stephenville with his wife, Lisa. He has two children, Shannon and Dustin, and two grandchildren. Lisa and Shannon both work for Stephenville ISD where Lisa is the athletic secretary and Shannon is a kindergarten teacher. He believes himself to be a strong voice for the small schools in the Region 11 service area.

His hobbies include wood and metal working and repair construction. He enjoys spending time with the grandchildren.

Dr. Rita C. Cook

Dr. Rita Cook actively seeks to create educational opportunities that lead to success for all students. Her vision and her strong advocacy for all children motivate her to continuously increase her knowledge and expertise in teaching and learning. Dr. Cook has worked as a classroom teacher, speech pathologist, special projects director, executive director of a regional education service center, and school superintendent. She is a respected professional and has been elected to both state and national education boards. While serving as the executive director of a regional education service center, she was elected to the national board of the Association of Education Service Agencies.

Dr. Cook also supports her community and has served on numerous boards, including The Red Cross, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, United Way, and Economic Development. Dr. Cook recently retired but continues to stay engaged in her community by serving on the Stephenville Parks and Recreation Board and Stephenville Land Use Committee. She also serves as a Child Advocate through the CASA program and serves as the president of a local pet rescue organization.

Dr. Cook has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tarleton State University, a Master of Education degree from Tarleton State University, and a Doctorate of Education Administration from Kansas State University.

James B. Morgan

James B. Morgan, who has for years been known as JB Morgan, was born and raised near the stockyards on the North Side in Fort Worth. He earned his bachelor's degree at Baylor University and his Juris Doctor (law) degree from Baylor Law School in 1964. He has practiced law with the firm of Handy & Morgan in Hurst, Texas, since 1969.

He has a long and varied career in public education. In 1971, he was elected to the Hurst-Euless-Bedford school board and served for nine years, the last three as board president. After stepping down from the HEB board, he became the school attorney for several school districts.

In 2002 he was elected to the ESC Region 11 board of directors, where he now serves as Chairman. He and his wife, Sherry, have been married for 55 years. They have two children and six grandchildren.

Denise M. Kahn

Denise Kahn is a retired administrator, as of January 31, 2018. She is a native of Fort Worth, graduating from Nolan Catholic High School at age 16. She received her B.A. Degree in Speech from the University of Houston, at age 20.

Denise began her career in education as a Marketing Teacher-Coordinator with Fort Worth ISD, teaching Marketing, Retail Merchandising and Entrepreneurship and, when needed, English and Speech classes. During her years as a teacher, she served stints on the Fort Worth ISD Textbook Committee and chaired the Marketing Curriculum Guide Update Committee. She received an "Outstanding Service to Marketing Education" Award from Emmett Eary, Texas Education Agency.

Denise obtained her M.Ed. Degree in Vocational Education from the University of North Texas. After her election as an Association Representative and Pyramid Lead with the Fort Worth Education Association, she was named "Outstanding Young Educator" by that organization. She was selected as a "Teacher of the Week," sponsored by the Star-Telegram Newspaper and Dillard's Department Store. After 19 years as a teacher, Denise Kahn was promoted to a High School Assistant Principal with Fort Worth ISD. As an administrator, she spearheaded the committee that approved her school being named a Project Lead the Way (Engineering) campus. In addition, she supervised the Social Studies Department, whose students regularly scored at the top in the district on state-mandated tests. Two initiatives that she started which became yearly activities were the student-nominated and judged "Teacher of the Month" program and the faculty-nominated and elected "Employee of the Year," which went to a non-teaching, non-administrating staff member. In addition, Denise worked frequently with area businesses, securing a host of community and business partnerships for the school.

Denise is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and St. Christopher Episcopal Church, where she served as Christian Education Chair for four years.