

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

OSBA Board of Directors

Name: Melissa R. LaCrosse

Region: Marion

District/ESD/CC: Jefferson 14J

Position #: 12

I certify that if elected, I will faithfully serve as a member of the OSBA board of directors. My nomination form has been submitted to OSBA (or is attached to this document) as evidence.

Signed:  _____

Date: 1 Oct 2021

Be brief; please limit your responses to 50 words per question.

1. Describe in your own words the mission and goals of OSBA.

OSBA serves member school districts, educational service districts and community colleges. OSBA is committed to developing boards, providing quality training and affordable services such as policy development, bargaining, and insurance (PACE.) OSBA is dedicated to improving student success and advocacy and the state and federal levels.

2. What do you want to accomplish by serving on the OSBA board of directors?

I want to continue serving the Marion region, representing both our small and large districts and our diverse issues. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to advocate for small rural districts and represent Marion County in Washington and Salem. The Covid era has brought our districts multiple revenue sources, mandates and I feel as a parent and local board member a disconnect and loss of local control that leaves me concerned. I hope during this next season we can make some course corrections where boards can ensure the safety and security of their students.

3. What leadership skills do you believe you bring to the board of directors? Give an example of a situation in which you demonstrated these skills.

I am tenacious and passionate about quality education and safe schools for our students. I spent two years (three election cycles) working and advocating for a school bond in my district. It passed on the third attempt.

I learn quickly, I research thoroughly and apply what I learn. This skill set is helpful working with policy matters and legislation.

4. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by OSBA?

I believe one of the huge issues facing OSBA will be to continue to provide leadership, advocacy and exceptional services in an era where local control has been disrupted by emergency powers and mandates. We should remain committed to serving member Districts across Oregon their wide range of needs. We need to remember there isn't a one size fits all approach.

The state is diverse with both rural and large districts. We will need to continue to advocate for our students and districts on local, regional and national issues. If we remain in an “zoom” world, we need to ensure our voices are not lost and we’re adequately represented. I don’t feel we were as “heard” this past year.

5. What do you see as the two most challenging issues faced by your region?

I believe our current issues revolve around recovering from the Covid pandemic: returning to safe healthy schools, rebuilding and revisioning successful learning environments for our students.

We will need to overcome the unique challenges our districts are facing in equity, mental health, building or perhaps recovering lost relationships and showing accountability for all of the new resources that we’re entrusted with.

6. What is your plan for communicating with boards in your region?

This past term has been primarily during the Covid pandemic. I truly hope we can return to our face to face networking at regional meetings, Convention and Summer Board. I plan to continue using the OSBA list serve to provide Board updates with my Marion region counterpart. I am available to attend board meetings or in person meetings if board members are interested and would like the opportunity to attend if we’re open.

Deadline: October 1, 2021, 5 pm

Materials submitted by the candidate on this form may be subject to a public information request under ORS Chapter 192.

CANDIDATE PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL RESUME

OSBA Board of Directors

Name: Melissa R. LaCrosse

Date: 1 Oct 2021

Address: PO Box 754

City / ZIP Jefferson, OR 97352

Residence phone: 541-327-8070

Cell phone: 503-949-2032

E-mail: melissa.lacrosse@jefferson.k12.or.us

District/ESD/CC: Jefferson 14J

Term expires: 6/30/2023 Years on board: 6

Deadline: October 1, 2021, 5 pm

Please send your picture (head shot). A high-resolution digital photo is preferred but a print is acceptable.

E-mail to: OSBAelections@osba.org

or mail to: Oregon School Boards Association, 1201 Court St NE, #400, Salem, OR 97301

Work or service performed for OSBA or local district (include committee name and if you were chair):

JSD 14J Finance Committee	Jan 2019 – present
JSD 14J Policy Committee	July 2018 – present
OSBA Governance Committee	Feb 2018 – Dec 2020
JSD 14J Bond Oversight Committee	July 2017 – July 2020
JSD 14J Chair	July 2017 – June 2018
JSD 14J Vice Chair	July 2016 – June 2017
JSD 14J Bargaining Team	July 2015 – May 2018
For Kids 4 Jefferson PAC (School Bond PAC)	Oct 2015 – June 2017
JSD Classroom Volunteer	Sept 2013 – June 2019

Other education board positions held/dates:

N/A

Occupation (Include at least the past five years):

Employers:

Jefferson School District Volunteer

Lane County Human Resources

Marion County Human Resources

Dates:

Sept 2013 – June 2019

July 2010 – June 2013

Jan 2009 – July 2010

Schools attended (Include official name of school, where and when):

High school:

Crescent Valley High School	Corvallis, Oregon	Sept 1988 – June 1992
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College:

Willamette University College of Law	Salem, Oregon	Aug 1997 – July 1998
Oregon State University	Corvallis, Oregon	Sept 1995 – June 1997
Southern Oregon University	Ashland, Oregon	Sept 1992 – June 1995

Degrees earned:

Bachelors of Science in Political Science
Oregon State University

Education honors and/or awards:

N/A

Other applicable training or education:

NSBA Equity Symposium / Advocacy Institute 2020
NSBA Equity Symposium / Advocacy Institute 2019
OSBA Leadership Oregon Graduate 2017
Negotiations and Collaboration: Getting to Yes – Senator David Landis / Chinook Institute
Taking your Negotiation Skills to the Next Level – National Public Employer Labor Relations Association
Leading with Emotional Intelligence – Suzanne Rotondo / REDSHIFT Leadership
Cats & Dogs: Managing and Maintaining Relationships – Sari de le Motte / FORTE
Don't Shoot the Messenger: Preserving Relationships – Sari de le Motte / FORTE

Activities, other state and local community services:

I actively serve my community and volunteer in the classroom or District when volunteering is permitted (not Covid times.) I work to support the students, families and teachers in my district. I worked four years on our district bond project. We passed our bond by 15 votes on our third try. Our students moved into a new middle school, 6 new elementary school classrooms and a gymnasium the beginning of the 2019-20 school year. Prior to the Covid pause, I was working was part of the Marion County Health and Human Services Drug and Alcohol Workgroup. I hope we continue our coalition work to reduce drug and alcohol use in our schools and Marion County.

Hobbies/special interests:

My family is important to me. My daughter is a junior at Jefferson High School. She is an AVID student, taking college level courses and is involved in Track and Field. She went to State last spring! I have a young adult son, also a Jefferson graduate. We're navigating Community College and Covid interrupted careers. My husband has 24 years in local law enforcement. I enjoy the outdoors, gardening and have fluffy backyard chickens that I adore. I love singing and music. If I have spare time, you might find me reading.

Business/professional/civic group memberships; offices held and dates:

N/A

Additional comments:

I started this journey eight years ago in the classroom helping 4th graders with reading, spelling and math. I was one of those children that needed help myself – in first and second grade I went to the reading lab, but by fourth grade I was in a TAG reading program. I believe we can make the difference working together. I look around, and see so many things that need fixing. I hope by serving in my district, serving on my local board and serving on the regional board that I can make a difference. I want to give our children the opportunities I had for success, and that they would grow to have a lifelong love of learning.

The past four years serving the Marion Region on the Oregon School Boards Association Board of Directors has been a privilege. I have had the opportunity to represent both Jefferson and Marion Region school districts in Washington DC twice and in Salem. I am committed to telling our stories, the ones that will make a difference and bring stable resources for our student's learning and success.

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