

# Consol board positions contested

## Fellenz — Position 1

NAME: Mary C. Fellenz

RACE: Position 1

Homemaker, B.A. in History with teacher certification, seven-year resident of College Station, 41 years old.

What is your opinion on:

a school board member's responsibility to his electorate?

A school board member's responsibility to his electorate is to establish policies that will promote an excellent educational climate. To do this

you must listen to parents, teachers, and students and decide what's good for the total community rather than one special interest group.

a school board member's responsibility to the school system?

A school board member must first keep herself informed on what is happening in education, nationally and locally, constantly being aware of the needs of the local district as well as the resources available.

the present board's handling of the Hopson termination?

Since I do not know the facts which brought about the board's action, I feel it would be improper to comment.

the proposal to combine city and school district tax offices?

In the interest of saving money and of efficiency, I support a study and implementation of the consolidation of the tax appraisal functions of the city and the school district. However, I feel that tax collection activities of each entity should be separate.

What are your pet projects, if any?

I'd like to help set a climate for constructive communication between school personnel, parents, and community, e.g. to allow teachers to voice their opinions without feeling threatened, that parents can speak of the needs of their children without antagonizing school personnel, that teachers and citizens work together on special committees and projects.



MARY C. FELLEENZ

## Brown — Position 1

NAME: Herman D. Brown

RACE: Position 2

Professor in Agricultural Education, Ed.D. in Agricultural Education and Higher Education, Oklahoma State, 13-year resident of College Station, 47 years old.

What is your opinion on:

a school board member's responsibility to his electorate?

A trustee should be receptive to community input and make a diligent effort to interpret the wishes and desires of the community. This information provides a working knowledge for school board action. The trustee should be available to the electorate and not away from the community for extended periods of time.

a school board member's responsibility to the school system?

The primary responsibility of the school board is the development of policy statements that will enable the administration to function in an effective manner. The school board cannot afford to become involved in administrative matters. A relationship should be developed between the school board and the school system that will insure mutual respect.

the present board's handling of the Hopson termination?

The laity does not have sufficient information on the termination of Fred Hopson's contract in which to make a valid statement. Since a new superintendent has been employed, it is best to think of the future instead of the past. This candidate will not make a statement on the Fred Hopson case.

the proposal to combine city and school district tax offices?

A merger of city and school district tax offices has merit. It would ap-



HERMAN D. BROWN

pear that a merger would be financially beneficial to the city and to the school.

What are your pet projects, if any?

None.

## A. Jones — Position 2

NAME: Ann Jones

RACE: Position 1

Homemaker, attended Texas A&M majoring in Home Economics, 22-year resident of College Station, 42 years old.

What is your opinion on:

a school board member's responsibility to his electorate?

To be available to the problems and comments of the community and to represent them to the best of my ability. To serve as a liaison to bring the community and school system closer together.

a school board member's responsibility to the school system?

To participate in the process of setting policy for the system and to see that the policies are properly implemented.

the present board's handling of the Hopson termination?

Mr. Hopson's termination is past history and not pertinent to this election.



ANN JONES

the proposal to combine city and school district tax offices?

By combining the city and school tax offices, we would save money and provide on tax appraisal for property.

What are your pet projects, if any?

None.

## Oran Jones — Position 2

NAME: Oran Jones

RACE: Position 2

Technical buyer, Texas A&M Purchasing Department, B.A. in Business Administration, Sam Houston State, 19-year resident of College Station, 34 years old.

What is your opinion on:

a school board member's responsibility to his electorate?

To be open and honest in all of his dealings involving the district. To be willing to listen objectively to all suggestions, complaints, criticisms, and ideas from the public, seek

input from the staff and administrators within the system, and, mixed with common sense, set policy for the district. The only job of a trustee is to set policy for the school district to provide the best education possible for the students within the district.

a school board member's responsibility to the school system?

To set policy by which the system is run in order to provide the best education possible for the students (within state and federal guidelines and monetary limitations). The residents must not be overtaxed, yet the quality and the education provided

cannot be lowered — a difficult balance to maintain.

the present board's handling of the Hopson termination?

A school board has the right to terminate any employee for just cause. However, the use of a large amount of educational funds to buy off a contract is an overt misuse of public funds. The present board was neither open nor honest with the public regarding this matter. I believe they operated capriciously and are guilty of misfeasance regarding this action.

the proposal to combine city and school district tax offices?

It will have to be studied but on the surface appears to be an economic savings to the taxpayer by avoiding a duplication of efforts by two separate offices that are providing a like service. If it will save money without causing problems in other areas I am in favor of it.

What are your pet projects, if any?

To make the board open and honest to the public by informing the public of all board actions. To remove the board from the area of administration, that is the job of the superintendent and his staff, and get it back to a policy-setting body.



ORAN JONES

## McNamara — Position 2

NAME: James F. McNamara

RACE: Position 2

Texas A&M Professor, Ph.D. from Penn State, five-year resident of College Station, 42 years old.

What is your opinion on:

a school board member's responsibility to his electorate?

The public elects a school board to make policy. The board appoints a superintendent to administer policy. Accordingly, the major source of school district power is electoral support and the model for policy-making should be responsiveness to public demands and preferences. Responsible board members must never view communications

gathered solely from supportive constituents as a substitute for either public dialogue or open communication of community preferences in formal school board meetings.

a school board member's responsibility to the school system?

Two factors that act to inhibit school districts from becoming responsive local governmental agencies are (1) LOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION which often prevents open communication of demands and preferences the community has for schools and (2) EXECUTIVE DOMINATION over legislative representatives (school boards) and community groups which makes the expression of public preferences irrelevant. Responsible board members must strive to eliminate these and other barriers which make the school dis-

trict less responsive to its constituents.

the present board's handling of the Hopson termination? In a school district, formal control of educational policy rests with the school board. The board appoints the superintendent. If the superintendent fails to effectively administer established policies, the board may terminate the superintendent's contract. While open communication between the board and the community has regrettably suffered with regard to Mr. Hopson's termination, I recognize the board's authority to end his contract and to search for a new superintendent who would effectively administer established policies.

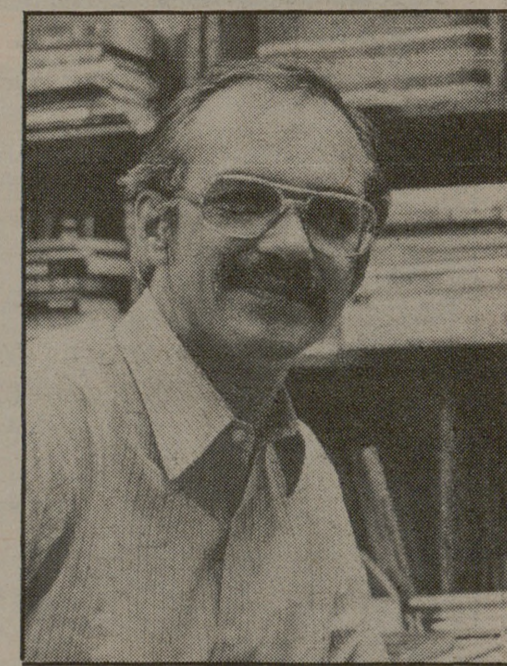
the proposal to combine city and school district tax offices?

I favor a combined property tax ap-

praisal system that would permit the school district to reinvest the time and resources currently allocated to the district's tax appraisal efforts in educational activities more directly linked to instructional programs and learning outcomes.

What are your pet projects, if any?

As a prospective school board member, my pet projects take the form of four campaign issues that I have shared with the Bryan-College Station community. These are (1) Budget priorities that assure a high quality education for all students, (2) Open communications between school and community, (3) Maintenance of buildings and grounds to reflect community pride in the schools, and (4) Public budget review with opportunity for citizen observation and comment.



JAMES F. McNAMARA