



Oct 7, 2023

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Meet the School Board Candidates



L-R: Anica Olson, Rob Wilkie, BJ Dreyer

The Treynor School Board election will take place Tuesday, Nov. 7. There are three vacancies and four candidates seeking election—two new and two incumbents. Three of the four presented today and Keith Christensen (incumbent) was unable to attend. He will present in the future.

Anica (Buckingham) Olson (NEW) graduated from Treynor in 2002, and is married to Nate Olson. They have two elementary age children. Their niece and a nephew, who is a senior in high school, live with them. Anica has a degree from UNO in business/finance/banking and a masters from Creighton in finance.

Rob Wilkie, (NEW) the Treynor HS Boys Golf Coach, is married to Tara, the Treynor HS Girls Golf Coach. They met at the University of Iowa where they both got their BA and law degrees. He also has a Business Administration degree. They have two sons in Treynor Middle School.

BJ Dreyer (INCUMBENT) grew up in Farragut, met his wife Megan (from Treynor) while in Germany on an Iowa Ambassador Music Tour. Their daughter is in college and their son is a Treynor freshman. BJ has his degree from Iowa State and has worked in the banking/finance industry for 18 years.

What inspired you to run? **BJ:** A personal ask from fellow board member Mickey Stogdill and it seemed like the right time. **Rob:** A garage conversation with Coach Joe Chapman and wife talking about the positives of Treynor. **Anica:** Inspired by her family's legacy - Her grandfather Gerald Goos served for many years. She states she is inquisitive and attends school board meetings to understand.

Skills you bring: **Rob:** Being a parent and a coach, he is able to hear what kids share and see first hand. He wants the excellence factor and shared

values to continue to be focused on. **Anica:** She brings connection through serving in the local church. Her work experience will be beneficial as she is used to being in strategic discussions, managing balance sheets, etc. **BJ:** Having served the last four years to an elected position on the school board and having served on multiple boards. Most beneficial was being in FFA as a student helped him learn about parliamentary procedure.

Pressing Issues: **Anica:** Staff recruitment and retaining teachers and administrators. Continued efforts to expand the pre-school and continue excellence through all grade levels. She believes starting conversations and including people in the community has been very important and disseminating more information and having a targeted approach is important. **Rob:** He said there is no hot button issue, which is a fantastic problem to have. We have good new staff and we need to keep them as long as possible as familiarity can keep excellence going. Attrition is one issue. We have good things going and we want to keep it that way. **BJ:** Two items: Enrollment and post-secondary education. State aid is \$7200/student so a loss of 20+ students as in 2020 is significant. Housing could be a cause – more families with empty nest homes not turning homes over. Post-secondary education: He believes kids should be set up for success and staffing can help get kids involved in trades, community college as well as 4 year degrees.

Teacher Retention: **BJ:** States Treynor is unique. Teachers tend to stay for a long time. That helps with continued culture, but challenges the district's finances. First year pay has been added to and we've made efforts to be very competitive. **Rob:** Applauds board's efforts. It's important to sell teachers that Treynor brings more to the table than just strict pay. And teachers need to be attracted to Treynor to live here with their kids as well. Excellence breeds excellence. **Anica:** Mirrors what was said. Would discuss adding other benefits to be offered our teachers. Getting substitutes is not a problem so maybe we can offer teachers a better leave policy if there are problems within their family. Not aware of a PTO or PTA which could further support academic endeavors. Also suggested that we can ask teachers

and candidates what they are seeing in other schools? What do you value? What would attract you?

Effect of the new law that public money can follow kids to private schools: **BJ:** Stated Treynor is special and open enrollment shows that. He doesn't see it as a major issue. He supports school choice. But having public money go to private schools where there is no oversight by a public elected board or state oversight causes him concern. **Rob:** In Iowa it is probably more of an issue in the larger communities. The private school option is limited. \$1200 will stay in the district so it would be \$6000 less per student. Open enrollment plays to our advantage. He stated the whole issue could be less negative than we think and maybe even benefit Treynor. **Anica:** The negative is to finances. On its own, it could provide a destination for educational and extra-curricular programs. In this community we couldn't support enough private options.

It was noted that the law doesn't apply to home schooling only public and private schools.

One Optimist comment: Private business values competition and it makes them better. Public schools have to do that too – value the competition and make your school better.

Disclaimer: *This is not a complete report of all that was presented and discussed. Readers are encouraged to verify any information independently and make their own judgments.*

Next week's Program:

Dan Roberts, Treynor Fire Chief

Famous Quote

"Don't mistake pleasure for happiness."

Josh Billings

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, our new president, called the meeting to order. Sixteen members were present. Guests included: Anica Olson, Rob Wilkie, BJ Dreyer, Tara Wilkie, Rachel Dyke, Sarah Vandevanter and sons James, Eli and Brock.

The group recited the pledge and Jordan Campbell offered the prayer.

Jokes: Eli Vandevanter, Anica Olson, Jordan Campbell, and Keith Denton shared jokes.

50/50: Dale Willenborg won.

Attendance: Kathy Luedke won but was not present.

Football Contest: Kevin Underwood won.

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: Anica Olson stated she and her husband have their 13th wedding anniversary.

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Jim Clausen stated they were gone 9 days to KY, TN, and NC and it never felt so good to get back to Treynor.
- Dick Fox bragged on one inch of rain this week.
- Dick Fox stated that granddaughter Emmersen Fox is the co-captain of the Treynor Color Guard and they won overall honors at Clarinda last week. Judy Guttau contributed also.

Community:

- Legion has Pancake Breakfast 8-12:30 Sunday (8th) at the Community Building.
- Western Iowa Conference Volleyball Tournament is this week. Treynor plays at Treynor this Monday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 pm. They play the winner of IKM and Loma which is at 5:30 pm in Treynor.

Business:



L-R: Sarah Vandervanter, sons Brock, James, Eli, Rachel Dyke, Dale Willenborg

- Silver Keg Feeders leaders and 4-Hers were present to receive a can kennel check for \$1923.25. Rachel Dyke, leader shared that she is a co-leader with Bri Schneider and Amanda Roberts. Rachel stated the club has over 75 members which includes Clover Kids K-3rd grade.

Sarah Vandervanten was present as leader for goats and poultry. There are numerous other leaders for each animal species. A new member party was held this fall at Lammerts. Service projects include collecting candy for nursing home residents to hand out for trick or treating, Christmas caroling in Treynor. Workshops are planned. There will be camps and an end of the year barbecue. Some of the money earned will pay to rent the community center for the Christmas family party, which is needed for the size of their club.

- Can Kennel sorting is Sunday, Oct. 8, at 4 pm to help the Silver Creek Club.
- The Shop with the Sheriff hat was passed again. \$154 was collected last week and the total will be announced next week.
- Membership checks are due.
- John Klein reported to officers that he picked up 5 boxes (40 bags each) clear plastic bags for the can kennel donated by Home Depot.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the saying of the Creed.

HUMOR



Calendar

Events

Oct 8 Can Kennel Sorting 4 pm.

Birthdays

Oct 17 Marsha Underwood
Oct 29 Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries

Oct 13 Dale & Dianne Willenborg
Oct 17 Dennis & Kay White

Programs:

Oct Gary Guttau (2nd, 4th Sat)
Judy Guttau (3rd Sat)
Nov Jordan Campbell (1st/2nd Sat)
Jerry Hempel (3rd/4th Sat)
Dec Judy Guttau

Speakers

Oct 14 Dan Roberts, Treynor Fire Chief
Oct 21 Jessica Duncan, Alzheimer's Association
Oct 28 Bob Allen, Pott Co. Sheriff Deputy – Drug Division

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575