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## **Board of Education reorganizes after resignations, appoints new member**

*Mary Powell joins board, ensuring a quorum; details for appointment process announced for remaining two open seats*

**ELIZABETH, Colo.** — Mary Powell joined the Elizabeth School District Board of Directors on March 16, following the approval of three board members' resignations. Two more appointments will be made in the coming weeks.

After approving the appointment of Superintendent Dan Snowberger on a unanimous vote at the March 13 business meeting, President Cary Karcher, Vice President Kim Frumveller and Secretary Craig Blackham submitted their resignations. This necessitated a special meeting on March 16, when the remaining board members, Heather Booth and Rhonda Olsen, made a declaration of an extraordinary event, as informed by district legal counsel. The declaration allowed them to appoint a third member immediately to ensure the possibility of a quorum and allow the board to continue to carry out its duties.

Booth and Olsen first needed to reorganize the board, electing Olsen as president and Booth as vice president. Powell was appointed immediately after the declaration of an extraordinary event, allowing the three members of the board to ratify actions taken earlier in the meeting, when there were only two members.

Olsen said Powell is involved, known and loved in the community, "so I am very honored to make a motion to appoint Mary to one of the vacant seats so we have a quorum." In a separate motion, the board appointed Powell to fill the role of secretary for the board.

### **About Mary Powell**

Powell has been a resident of Elizabeth School District for 22 years. She is a retired paralegal who has worked both at law firms that focused on business litigation as well as in corporate settings where she drafted and filed documentation to license HMO and 401(k) insurance products with various State Departments of Insurance and worked as Senior Contracts Manager for a medical device company dealing with sales and research contracts, consulting agreements, confidentiality agreements and more.

She has taken an active interest in the school district, attending nearly every board meeting since the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. After making suggestions on numerous policies, she was invited to participate in the Policy Review Committee beginning in February 2023. Powell and her husband have two grown children and two grown grandchildren. Their grandchildren attended Elizabeth Schools for one year about a decade ago.

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Powell's volunteer work aside from the school district centers on her church, for which she leads or helps to lead prayer groups and participates in various Bible studies and events. She is the 2023 coordinator for the National Day of Prayer event in Elizabeth.

"I am excited to be part of a new time of healing and growth in our Elizabeth schools," Powell said. "I look forward to working with the board and Superintendent Snowberger to help achieve the best education and safest environment possible for our students."

### **Next steps**

The remaining two board seats will be filled within 60 days of the vacancy, according to state law. Residents of the district who wish to be considered for appointment should email the board, at [assistanttoeboe@esdk12.org](mailto:assistanttoeboe@esdk12.org), a statement of interest and qualifications by 5 p.m., March 31. To be eligible, a candidate must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a resident of the school district and a registered voter, as shown on the books of the county clerk and recorder, for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the election.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- May not be an employee of the school district.

The current members of the board will screen candidates and select as many as five to interview publicly at the April 10 business meeting. At that time, the board will select two new members of the board who will be sworn in and immediately seated for that business meeting.

Powell and the other two appointees will serve until the next regular, biennial election which will be Nov. 7. Voters will select board members to fill the remainder of the unexpired terms for two directors who were elected to four-year terms in 2021 but resigned this year. The terms for two other directors expire this year, one of whom also resigned this year. Thus, voters in November will be electing two directors for two-year terms and two for four-year terms.

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### **About Elizabeth School District**

Located less than an hour from downtown Denver and Colorado Springs, Elizabeth School District educates more than 2,300 students at five schools: Running Creek Elementary, Singing Hills Elementary, Legacy Academy, Elizabeth Middle School and Elizabeth High School.