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MUNICIPAL ELECTION

O'HEARN-CZARNOTA HUMBLLED BY SUPPORT

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to about 110 people who had contact with the board in a variety of capacities in the past, including being on parent councils.

Then a meeting was held with approximately 30 people who accepted, to determine those who may be interested in running for trustee.

One-on-one meetings were then scheduled with these candidates, before the final selections were made.

Boyd says he has been reaching out to a number of candidates who were not contacted during the selection process to explain the rationale behind the early endorsements.

"We weren't sure if anyone was interested in putting their name out there for trustee," Boyd said. "We were looking for agents of change. People who had moderate view points and people who

wanted the focus put back on students and away from the political spectrum."

O'Hearn-Czarnota says she was contacted by the OECTA earlier this year to discuss her endorsement.

"I did not contact them nor did I know what other candidates were being contacted," she told the Independent. "I was pleased and honoured to accept their endorsement, as I believe in supporting our teachers and have always done so."

O'Hearn-Czarnota added she is humbled by the support from local residents and various community members.

"These are the people that fuel my passion to be a Catholic school board trustee," she said.

In addition to the candidate endorsements, the letter highlights four key issues the association hopes will be addressed following the Oct. 22 election: School fundraising

restrictions, the daily oath to the Queen, fiscal mismanagement and lack of educators in the French immersion program.

"Let's take right-wing, American political ideologies out of our classrooms!" the letter reads. "Too often, the current group of trustees have pushed this agenda at the trustee table and in our schools at the expense of our students."

Dragicevic responded on social media stating that he also does not subscribe to those ideologies, but added that he does believe the trustees selected should not all stand for the same causes.

"We need a board of trustees that has different opinions, views and ideologies to be a true representation of our entire community, not a board hand-picked by OECTA," he said. "This is what makes for a true democracy."

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