

1425 W. Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor MI 48103
February 17, 2010

RECEIVED

FEB 17 2010

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ann Arbor Board of Education
2555 S. State St.
Ann Arbor MI 48104

Dear Trustees:

As a parent whose son attends Ann Arbor Public Schools, I am deeply concerned regarding the potentially calamitous effects of recent cuts in funding for public education -- and the level of contentiousness this has caused in our community. I am applying for the open position on the Ann Arbor Board of Education with the hope that I can make a difference by helping the District make difficult decisions in a calm, thoughtful and objective manner.

I am a recent retiree with 38 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. I have spent the past 25 years in the health care industry, where I served as chief administrative officer for a medical group practice. Our company was small (approximately 60 employees) and I dealt with the daily challenge of maintaining financial viability in a rapidly deteriorating urban environment. My most recent professional assignment involved a financial "turnaround" for the Department of OB/GYN at the Wayne State University Physician Group.

For the past six years, I have been actively involved with the District in a number of ways. For four years, I represented Burns Park Elementary School on the Ann Arbor PTO Council. During that time, I served as recording secretary for the Council, and I continue as a member of its executive board. In this capacity, I meet regularly with Superintendent Todd Roberts and his staff to address the concerns of parents throughout the District.

I am currently secretary and field trip treasurer for the Tappan Middle School PTSO. I am also a member of the District's Communications Committee, and have been very involved in responding to the challenge of how to communicate with parents and the general public in a community where there is no daily newspaper. I have participated in the District's interview process for hiring teachers and administrators, including the recent search for a new principal and assistant-principal for Tappan Middle School.

One of my most satisfying endeavors has been establishing the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund, named in honor of my wife who passed away last year. Karen was a passionate reader, and I wanted to create an endowment through the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation to encourage reading, especially among economically disadvantaged students. With the help of the Burns Park PTO, we raised over \$34,000. Our first project is a reading program at Pittsfield Elementary, one of our District's most diverse (and economically challenged) schools. The program provides quality literature to 2nd- 3rd- and 4th-grade students, who are enjoying reading such classics as ***Little Women, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, The Merrie Adventures of Robin Hood*** and ***Huckleberry Finn*** in both abridged and unabridged versions.

If I were to be selected to serve on the Board of Education, I would come to the job with an open mind and no preconceived agenda. My approach would be to take a deliberate, thoughtful assessment of the budgetary crisis facing the District, to consider the recommendations of Dr. Roberts and his staff, to encourage and listen to input from the various members of our community, and finally, to work toward a solution consistent with the District's strategic plan.

The citizens of Ann Arbor have repeatedly, over a period of many years, expressed their desire to have, not just average schools, not good or even very good ones, but an absolutely excellent public education system. To a great extent, we have achieved this level of excellence. The challenge we face today is to maintain and even improve that system in the face of a significant loss of State funding. I would like nothing more than to participate in our community's effort to preserve the Ann Arbor Public Schools and the rich and varied educational opportunities they offer our children. I would consider it a great honor to serve on the Board of Education.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Thomas", written in a cursive style.

Andrew Thomas

ANDREW H. THOMAS

1425 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor MI 48103
734-996-8476 (home) 734-546-7115 (cell)
E-mail: athomas@med.wayne.edu

EDUCATION:

MBA, University of Michigan
BA, Oberlin College

PROFICIENCIES:

Financial management, personnel administration, statistical analysis,
operational audits and reviews, oral and written communications

WORK EXPERIENCE:

2008-2009	Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Dept of OB/GYN University Physician Group, Detroit, Michigan
1990-2007	Chief Administrative Officer University Orthopaedics, Warren, Michigan
1985-1989	Administrative Manager, Internal Medicine Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, Michigan
1971-1984	Claims Rep/Field Rep/Supervisor Social Security Administration (various locations)

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2009-Present	Secretary, Tappan Middle School PTSO
2009-Present	Field Trip Treasurer, Tappan Middle School PTSO
2009-Present	Member, AAPS Communications Committee
2008-Present	Founded Karen Thomas Memorial Fund
2008-Present	Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation
2008-2009	Burns Park Players
2005-Present	PTO Council Executive Board
2005-Present	PTO Council Representative, Burns Park/Tappan
2005-2009	Recording Secretary, Ann Arbor PTO Council
2003-Present	PTO/PTSO volunteer, Dicken/Burns Park/Tappan
2000-2009	Volunteer, Alpha House
2000-2004	Volunteer, Interfaith Hospitality Network
1990-1992	Volunteer, Washtenaw Literacy

PERSONAL

Widowed, one child (age 11) attending Ann Arbor Public Schools

Wendy L. Correll
2956 Provincial Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

November 24, 2009

Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education
2555 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

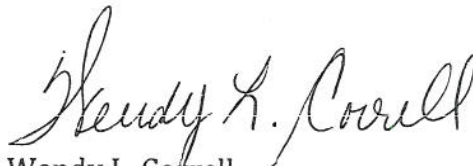
Dear Trustees,

It is with pleasure that I write this personal letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Andrew Thomas for the position of Trustee, Board of Education, Ann Arbor Public Schools. I have known Andy for several years in my capacity as Executive Director of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation and in his capacity as a representative to the PTO Council. I have found him to be sincere, thoughtful, deliberative and inclusive.

I believe that Andy will make a good Trustee because of his willingness to discover details, to seek out facts, to weigh the several sides of a situation before making a decision, and to consider unusual solutions to problems. Andy believes in the ability of education to change lives; to improve the future of every student. He understands the challenges facing students and schools of low socio-economic capacity, and works to improve them where he can. I don't believe that Andy carries an agenda with him to the position beyond wanting to serve all students across the Ann Arbor Public School district.

Andy, with his experience on the PTO Council for several years and as a parent of a sixth grader in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, is sure to be an asset to the Board of Trustees should he be appointed. He is a team player, will work hard to get up to speed in any areas in which he might be deficient, and genuinely wants the Ann Arbor Public Schools to provide success for every student. I highly recommend him for Trustee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy L. Correll". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Wendy L. Correll



HENRY FORD MEDICAL CENTERS

Henry Ford Medical Center
Department of Orthopaedics

6777 West Maple Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48322-3031
(248) 661-6470 Office

Board of Education
Ann Arbor Public Schools
2555 South State Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

30 November, 2009

Dear School Board,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Mr Andrew Thomas for the open seat on your Board. I have known Andy for more than 20 years, and I don't think you could find a more competent and dependable person for the position.

I served as the Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Wayne State University School of Medicine, from 1995-2007. Mr Thomas was the Departmental Administrator during this entire period. I never could have done my job without him. Our Department consisted of 15 surgeons, 3 PhD researchers, various post-docs and visiting fellows, and 80 employees. We were responsible for educating 40 orthopaedic resident physicians, Wayne State medical students (the largest medical school in the country), and various non-physician health care students on campus. Our \$10+ million/year budget, however, was largely constructed from patient care revenue, and we had the challenge of being the safety net orthopaedic providers for the metro Detroit area (although sometimes it seemed like it was the entire state).

Andy was a genius at making this all work. We were a friend of the Dean's office, because Andy created realistic budgets and then helped us meet them. During a major transition from individual for-profit practice plans to a single combined not-for-profit faculty plan, with major disruptions to cash flow, we were one of only a handful of Departments who did not need bridge funding from the Dean.

Andy combined the skills needed to run a private physician office with the ability to navigate the politics of the medical school and hospital administrations. He could manage up and manage down. We had extremely low turnover among our support staff. And he consistently met the challenge of administering to the needs of 15 orthopaedic surgeons, which in my opinion puts him on the short track to sainthood.

In the end, our Department became a casualty of the internecine warfare between the Detroit Medical Center and the School of Medicine. While attending closely to his wife, gradually succumbing to her decade-long battle with cancer, Andy stood by the Department, making sure that all of the employees in his charge got placed elsewhere in the practice group. His calm demeanor and obvious humanity in the face of these wrenching changes eased our passage into new lives. And when his work was done, Andy retired from WSU to become a full-time dad for his young son.

I am honored to have Andrew Thomas as my friend. I would hope that you do not miss this opportunity to have him become part of your organization.

Sincerely,

Stephen P DeSilva, MD



ENVISION *the next 100 years.*

Helen Starman
2201 Brockman Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734)994-8553

November 23, 2009

Ann Arbor Public Schools, Board of Education
2555 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Trustees,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Andrew Thomas and to support his application for the currently vacant Board of Education seat. I have been personally acquainted with Andy for over five years and during this time period we have volunteered together for several organizations that work to support the Ann Arbor Public Schools, including: the Burns Park Elementary School PTO, the Tappan Middle School PTSO, the Ann Arbor Public Schools PTO-Council, the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation and the Burns Park Players. Andy is intelligent, articulate and a tireless advocate for the education of all children in the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

I feel confident that Andy has the skills needed to be an excellent BOE Trustee and specifically to be able to "hit the ground running" should you decide to appoint him to this position. His current and past level of involvement in the AAPS demonstrates his interest in and dedication to education **and** means that he is already well versed in the critical issues facing our district. Additionally, my experience with Andy has shown me that he is a person who does not make decisions lightly or without thought. He asks pertinent questions, is willing to do the research needed to make a sound decision and most importantly he is willing to change his mind if the questions and research suggest a different answer. These are qualities that I believe are of highest importance for a BOE Trustee.

Additionally, Andy has a long history of pursuing a higher level of participation in each group he is involved with. For example, in his first year as a Tappan parent, he not only committed to attending PTSO meetings but volunteered to be the PTSO secretary AND the Field Trip Treasurer! When he started attending PTO-Council meetings as the Burns Park Elementary school representative, he also volunteered for the role of PTO-Council secretary. I believe that this quality will make him a valuable and useful member of the BOE from the first day of his term.

Again, I am happy to support Andy's application for the vacant BOE seat. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Helen D. Starman

Interfaith Hospitality Network @ Alpha House, *Director of Development*
Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation, *Vice Chair*
Ann Arbor Public Schools, *parent and volunteer*