

## **Wendi Thomas Brings Long History in District to School Board Position**

Mrs. Wendi Thomas is not a newcomer to the Council Rock School District. In August, when Christopher Ayoub resigned from the School Board, Mrs. Thomas felt it was a natural progression for her to apply for the position.

Mrs. Thomas has many years of involvement in the district as PTO president at Churchville Elementary and Richboro Middle School, participation on the district Growth Committee, Science Curriculum Committee, IT Tech Committee and Superintendent's Parent Advisory Board, as well as being President of Citizens For Education. When Wendi Thomas applied to fill the opening left by Mr. Ayoub, she was unanimously appointed to the School Board Director position. Her husband and three children, all students in Council Rock, supported her decision to take her district involvement to this new level.

Mrs. Thomas graduated from Gettysburg College with a double major in Political Science and Accounting. She worked as District Manager of Sales for Aetna prior to taking her current position as Vice President of Member Education for Health Advocates, a health benefit company.

When asked what she found surprising or unexpected when she joined the Board, Mrs. Thomas said that the variety and volume of information that Board members are provided with is tremendous. She said that as a Board Director it is imperative to prioritize and synthesize a great deal of data to make the most informed decisions possible.

Mrs. Thomas has found the CR Administration very responsive and supportive, and she stated that the Administrators seem interested in giving her the information she needs to make informed decisions. She and Mrs. Kyle McKessy, who joined the board at the same time, had several meetings to talk with the administrators, the school principals and to tour all the schools.

Mrs. Thomas said that her goals as a Board director are to "balance the needs of the entire district" and to "address the current economic downturn without compromising the quality of education" in Council Rock. To that end she serves on the Board's Finance and Facilities committees and also attends Academic Standards committee meetings.

Mr. Ayoub's term had not expired when he resigned; therefore Mrs. Thomas needs to be elected to the School Board Director position in the May primary election. She will represent by Northampton Region 4. This includes districts 2, 6, 7 and 12; primarily the Churchville Elementary, and some of the Welch Elementary sending areas.

Wendi Thomas brings a great wealth and depth of knowledge of Council Rock, as well as strong business acumen and a background in employee benefits systems to her position as School Board Director.

While Citizens For Education was sorry to lose her as our President, we wish her well in her new position and are confident that she will continue to be a voice for quality education for all Council Rock students.