



# Budget Committee Applicants

April 14, 2025





Budget Committee Applicant Interviews  
April 14, 2025

1. The Budget Committee position is being appointed to fill a vacancy.
2. These Budget Committee position will expire December 31, 2026.
3. A decision and appointment will be made at the School Board meeting which will begin at 7:00pm this evening.
4. “Official” Budget Committee meetings are scheduled for:
  - a. Thursday, May 8, 2025
  - b. Thursday, May 15, 2025
  - c. Thursday, May 22, 2025 (if needed)
5. The Budget hearing will take place on June 9, 2025





**SPRINGFIELD**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Every Student, Every Day

**Question Rotation for Panel Interview**  
**April 14, 2025**

Question 1: Linda, ~~Lindsey~~, Candra, Patrick

Question 2: ~~Lindsey~~, Candra, Patrick, Linda

Question 3: Candra, Patrick, Linda, ~~Lindsey~~

Question 4: Patrick, Linda, ~~Lindsey~~, Candra

Question 5: Linda, ~~Lindsey~~, Candra, Patrick

Question 6: ~~Lindsey~~, Candra, Patrick, Linda

Linda Merritt, ~~Lindsey Green~~, Candra Robinson, Patrick Walch





Linda Merritt

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

9 years

**Please describe your background (you can include education, training or any other pertinent information).** Education- MBA. I've worked in financial analysis and in Insurance as an underwriter. Currently underwriting and managing a team.

**Give a brief description of the experience or training you believe qualifies you to serve on the budget committee.** I have served on a couple of local boards and helped develop budgets. I am not an accountant by background nor would I have the bookkeeping experience, but I have read and analyzed financial statements for around 15 years give or take.

**What are some of your special interests or concerns about public schools?**

Education is the gateway for opportunity for our kids. I am concerned about the incredible challenges this generation of children is facing. Without appropriate education, I think the future of our community could be challenging.

**List anything you would like the school board to consider when reviewing your application.** Feel free to call and ask questions. I updated my resume to submit for this on my phone so it's not the best format or the most descriptive.

**Budget committee meetings are typically held on Thursday evenings. Are there any weekday evenings you would not be able to attend meetings in May?**

I don't believe so, but my work schedule can vary.

# Linda Merritt

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## Experience

### **AVP, PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY QBE NOVEMBER 2021- PRESENT**

- Manage Renewal Team
- National New Business Underwriter for MPL
- Lead product development initiatives and strategic planning for division

### **CHIEF OF STAFF & SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER | ALACRINET CONSULTING SERVICES | APRIL 2021 – OCTOBER 2021**

- Led departmental operations in strategic planning, process improvement, and employee coaching
- Managed penetration testers and created onboarding policies and procedures
- Established internship training program including training and coaching content
- Developed and implemented project management documentation and procedures for scoping, onboarding, setup, reporting, and debrief
- Managed vendor relations including contracts, documentation, and ensured appropriate resolution for both company and client needs

### **ACCOUNT MANAGER | ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP | 2019-2021**

- Presented and proposed new and renewal coverage to clients
- Advised on potential gaps in coverage and available risk management solutions
- Provided policy language and marketplace expertise
- Coordinated and negotiated carrier requirements to provide seamless insurance placements
- Increased new business revenue through client consultation and product education

### **DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR | HERO BUSINESS SERVICES | 2017-2019**

- Stabilized department and increased profitability by creating operational and accounting efficiencies
- Conducted statistical analysis of operations and implemented operational changes to reflect findings
- Managed operations of extended business office and early-out accounts receivables center
- Overhauled in-house software development process through influencing and collaboration
- Exceeded client expectations through operational excellence and consistent communication

### **SENIOR UNDERWRITER | GJ SULLIVAN | 2010-2016**

- Recognized as a top producer for new business and change agent for business relationships
- Assigned risk rating and analyzed corporate documents, financials, and organizational structures
- Trained new hires and trainees on underwriting analysis, risk management, and policy language
- Determined appropriate limits, retentions, and premiums to achieve growth and profitability
- Successfully managed new and renewal book of business with nationwide territories

### **MANAGEMENT LIABILITY AND E&O UNDERWRITER | CHUBB | 2006-2010**

- Provided Media E&O, MPL, and LPL underwriting expertise for the department
- Communicated and negotiated with producers to develop and nurture profitable relationships
- Conducted internal and external training on professional products for brokers and underwriters

## **Education and Additional Qualifications**

**M.B.A | BUSHNELL UNIVERSITY | DECEMBER 2020 | EUGENE, OR**

**B.A. INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY | PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY | 2005 | MALIBU, CA**

**SPRINGFIELD ROTARY BOARD | 2018-2020 | SPRINGFIELD, OR**

**OREGON P&C INSURANCE LICENSE**





Candra Robinson

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

5 years

**Please describe your background (you can include education, training or any other pertinent information).**

I'm a stay at home mother of a third grader. I also have over 30 years of child care experience including being a private nanny for a few families.

**Give a brief description of the experience or training you believe qualifies you to serve on the budget committee.**

I enjoy volunteering at my child's school and would like to be more involved. I also participated in student council when I attended trade school and excelled in fundraising.

**What are some of your special interests or concerns about public schools?**

My special interest is child literacy and building critical thinking skills. Making sure children have access to the resources necessary to focus in school, such as proper nutrition and a strong community support system are concerns I have as not all children have access to that at home.

**List anything you would like the school board to consider when reviewing your application.**

I'd love the opportunity to participate and learn more about the school system.

**Budget committee meetings are typically held on Thursday evenings. Are there any weekday evenings you would not be able to attend meetings in May?**

Im available every Thursday in May.





Patrick Walch

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

3.5 years

**Please describe your background (you can include education, training or any other pertinent information).**

I am recently retired after a 30+ year career in corporate finance (Google, Intel). I have a BS in Finance (BYU) and an MBA (University of Washington).

**Give a brief description of the experience or training you believe qualifies you to serve on the budget committee.**

I was Vice President of Finance at both Google and Intel. I have extensive experience developing, reviewing, and managing multi-billion dollar spending plans. I have deep understanding of the principles and practices of budgeting, financial controls, and financial reporting.

**What are some of your special interests or concerns about public schools?**

My focus will be on helping SPS achieve its mission of "Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future" by ensuring that SPS's budget is aligned with its goals and objectives.

**List anything you would like the school board to consider when reviewing your application.**

My wife and I are products of Springfield schools (THS '81). My education prepared me for success at the college level, and in my career. I want to help ensure current SPS students are prepared for success in their futures. I also have deep roots in SPS. My father worked in the district for over 30 years as an elementary school principal and administrator, and my mother was an elementary school teacher in the district.

**Budget committee meetings are typically held on Thursday evenings. Are there any weekday evenings you would not be able to attend meetings in May?**

I will be traveling out of the country May 21 through June 1. I have no other conflicts.

Letter of Interest - SPS Budget Committee - Patrick Walch.pdf

March 19, 2025

Springfield Public Schools  
640 A Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
[board@springfield.k12.or.us](mailto:board@springfield.k12.or.us)

Dear board members and selection committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the volunteer position on the District's Budget Committee. I believe my extensive experience in financial management coupled with my connection to, and passion for, Springfield schools makes me a highly qualified candidate.

I have recently retired after a 30+ year career in corporate finance. My last role was at Google, where I was Vice President of Finance, responsible for financial planning and analysis for all of Google's technical infrastructure spending (data center construction and operations, worldwide networking deployments, etc.). I led a team of over 100 finance and accounting professionals supporting a 10,000 person group responsible for delivering the technologies underpinning nearly all of Google's products (search, AI, gmail, YouTube, etc.). In this role, I was responsible for financial oversight of \$25 billion of annual operating and capital expenditures. I prepared and presented quarterly budget and spending reviews to members of Alphabet's (Google) board of directors

Prior to working at Google, I worked at Intel for 25 years. I was Vice President and CFO of Intel's Data Center Group, a \$17 billion revenue business with about \$5 billion in annual costs and expenditures. I was responsible for all aspects of financial management, controls, and financial reporting.

So I have extensive experience in the preparation, review, and execution of large scale budgets. I am also very familiar with financial controls and accounting principles. I have a bachelor's degree in Finance from BYU, and an MBA from the University of Washington.

My family has deep roots in Springfield Public Schools. My wife and I are products of SPS (THS '81). My father worked for the district for over 30 years as an elementary school principal and administrator. My mother was also a teacher in the district for several years. I am hoping to continue their legacy of serving every student, every day.

I look forward to speaking with you about this opportunity.

Sincerely,

*Patrick Walch*