Carolyn Siebers-Statement of Interest

In Ann Arbor we take pride in our district's reputation for excellence, but sustaining excellence requires data-driven decision-making by the school board. I am applying for the vacant seat on the school board to serve and preserve all its resources--students, teachers, taxpayers' money, school buildings and grounds. I look forward to working collaboratively with the new finance director to achieve these goals. As a retired AAPS employee whose variety of positions have made visible the complexities and components of effective schools, I am committed to the Ann Arbor district and its effective management. As a teacher, coach, principal, and researcher, I have learned that achieving and sustaining success requires data-driven decision-making.

Nationally, educational achievement began a decade-long fall as social media and cell phone usage increased. COVID's extended disruption of face-to-face instruction further limited students' academic performance and social interactions. Further exacerbating this decline in Ann Arbor were financial decisions that led to a $25 million budget shortfall, an unresolved teachers' contract, reduced stakeholder input, and decreased use of physical texts.

Given these stark realities, now is the time for the school board to address student achievement, teacher support, community relations, fiscal transparency, and board functioning. A major step toward restoring community trust should include a transparent examination of the budget shortfalls and widespread publication of the safeguards put in place to prevent future recurrences.

We cannot alter the past, but we can design and communicate the district's plan to address these issues. Restoring trust and transparency are vital.

I've had a positive impact on education in multiple contexts. As a teacher I helped students understand math, as an administrator I supported teacher growth along with parent involvement, and as a researcher I identified ways to enhance student learning. While working as a mathematics consultant at Wayne RESA, the County's Intermediate School District, I served as a Principal Investigator for large, federally-funded Math-Science Partnership (MSP) grants. Our largest budgetary awards were state-wide projects such as "Algebra for All." We collaborated with ISDs around the state and Michigan Virtual to deliver PD focusing on strategies to help students with diverse learning styles access mathematical content.

Since retirement, I have been tutoring at Community High, Peace Neighborhood Center, and the Robot Shop. For two years, I have been supporting two middle school students from Afghanistan with their math. One of these students is studying algebra through A2V, which gives me firsthand experience with the ALEKS online learning software.

Now that I am retired, I have the time and energy to devote to the intensive work of an Ann Arbor school board trustee. My belief in the vital role of public education for our democracy and my pride in the AAPS motivate me to serve our community in this role. As a former district employee, 40-year veteran of public schools and 45-year resident, I am committed to the district and the importance of an effective school board for maintaining district excellence and building community trust.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn A. Siebers

Carolyn A. Siebers

[redacted]

PROFILE

To serve as a school board trustee for the Ann Arbor Public Schools

EXPERIENCE

Mathematics Consultant, Wayne Regional Educational Agency, Wayne, MI - 2002-2015

Provided K-12 mathematics professional development, Principal Investigator for statewide grant, "Algebra for ALL"; PI for NSF-funded PD programs for Highland Park and Hamtramck districts, "Making Mathematics Matter in Challenged Environments"

High School Principal, Thurston High School, South Redford, MI –2000-2002

Class Principal, Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor, MI –1996-2000

Served as the principal for the Class of 2000, grades 9-12; responsibilities included master schedule development, management of student clubs, student discipline, teacher evaluation

Mathematics Teacher, Forum Leader, Community High School, Ann Arbor, MI - 1981-1996

Taught computers, calculus, math analysis, geometry, algebra; as mathematics department chair we were first high school eliminating general math; served as forum leader for cross grade student group with counseling, course selections, service projects, etc., union representative

Mathematics Teacher, Coach, Byron Area Schools, Byron, MI - 1977-1981

Taught analysis, algebra 2, geometry, algebra; coached volleyball, basketball, softball

EDUCATION

Wayne State University, Detroit, Mi.; Doctorate of Philosophy–School Leadership and Policy Studies - 2012

Dissertation titled, "Making Mathematics Matter: Professional Development Improving Outcomes in High-Poverty Environments"

Administrative Certificate with endorsements in secondary and central office administration - 1993

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University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; Master of Arts – Teaching Secondary Mathematics -1982

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; Bachelor of Science in Education, double majors in mathematics and physical education - 1976

AWARDS, RESEARCH, PRESENTATIONS

Chosen for presentation at national ASCD conference, topic "Making Mathematics Matter: Professional Development Improving Outcomes in High-Poverty Environments"- 2012

Education Excellence Award, from the Michigan Association of School Boards for Wayne RESA's "Algebra for All" - 2011

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, National Science Foundation, State of Michigan - 1996

Education Excellence Award, Governor of Michigan - 1997

Attended and presented at annual mathematics conferences, Michigan Teachers of Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics

SERVICE

Volunteer Tutoring - Peace Neighborhood Center, the Robot Shop, Community High School, currently tutoring eighth grade student taking algebra via A2Virtual on ALEKS

Volunteer for Michigan Voter Protection - 2016-present

Volunteer at the Bird Center of Michigan - 2020 - present

Teach monarch butterfly study groups for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - 2024-2026

Served on Board of Governors for Henderson House, University of Michigan women's cooperative housing for students who provide their own cooking, cleaning, etc. in exchange for reduced housing rates - 2015-2021 , chair 2018-21

Initiated and chaired Silent Auction for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) for the University of Michigan's, "Big Hearts for Seniors" - 2017-2020

Chaired Silent Auction Committees for the Michigan Human Rights Campaign, Annual Fundraiser 1996-2002

HOBBIES

Raising monarch butterflies, reading, gardening, traveling, photography, bird watching, jigsaw puzzling, attending OLLI lectures and events, tutoring

References for Carolyn Siebers

Judith DeWoskin

[redacted]

Robert Galardi

[redacted]

Libby Pizzo

[redacted]

May 25, 2026

Dear Members of the Ann Arbor Board of Education:

I am honored to write in support of Carolyn Siebers who wishes to serve as a school board trustee for the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Carolyn and I were colleagues at Community High School, in different departments, but we shared a dedication to teaching, to our students and the community in which they grew up. I cheered Carolyn as she went on to serve as a high school principal in South Redford and a class principal in Ann Arbor. At a state level, Carolyn was a Mathematics Consultant through the Wayne Regional Educational Agency. Her awards, advanced degrees (M.A. and PhD.), courses she taught, even the hobbies she lists all attest to what makes Carolyn a gift to our district. Carolyn is the epitome of a life-long learner, with decades of teaching and administrative experience.

My colleagues and I were grateful for good PD. Carolyn's recent work with such good PD in Wayne is impressive as she and another colleague designed programs to meet mathematical needs for the schools they served. In addition to after-school offerings, they established intensive PD programs for district teams that met during the school day for teams of teachers with classroom coaching included. This program blossomed beyond Highland Park and Hamtramck through a Math-Science Partnership grant. Teachers attended 10- full-day classes, plus a week-long summer institute. They evaluated teachers' pedagogical content knowledge and found that increases in teachers' scores in the Learning for Mathematics Teaching evaluation correlated with significant increases in student MEAP scores. Wayne RESA was also awarded a grant to provide a state-wide PD opportunity, "Algebra for All," Hundreds of teacher teams throughout the state attended these institutes.

The above is one example of Carolyn's work as a teacher for teachers and students. Her current work with Ann Arbor's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute benefits from Carolyn's teaching adults about the plight of the monarch butterflies which she raises and releases in the summer. And currently, Carolyn is tutoring two Tappan students from Afghan in math.

Most critical for any teacher or a Board trustee is the ability to connect with and listen to everyone's opinions, concerns and arguments. I like to think back to the staff meetings of old at Community High School when there were always differing opinions. What impressed me as a young teacher then was just how sincere Carolyn was in respecting all sides of every issue. She maintained a calm demeanor, listened carefully and then chose her words with the same care. Carolyn knows how to listen and to talk, with integrity, transparency, and genuine respect. And, for what it's worth, she knows how to please—with amazing right triangle brownies. Carolyn Siebers has my vote!

Respectfully,

Judith M. DeWoskin
Retired teacher from Community High School in 2020

ROBERT GALARDI

[redacted]

May 27,2026

To: Trustees Ann Arbor Board of Education

This letter comes to you in support of appointing Carolyn Siebers to the interim position of Trustee on the Ann Arbor School Board of Education. My name is Bob Galardi, and I have been involved in public education for over 45 years. I understand how important it is to have solid leadership at the Board of Education level which is why I recommend Ms. Siebers without reservation.

Ms. Siebers has the type of experience that will add to the Board's deliberations. She served as a math teacher and assistant principal with AAPS. She has the perspective of working in other districts as principal of Thurston High School and as a math consultant with Wayne RESA. As a retired educator her passion for teaching and learning has not dissipated. She continues to with students at Peace Neighborhood and currently tutors students in math. Ms. Seibers is a scholar and remains deeply engaged with educational research, especially as it pertains to mathematics. She has expanded her talents to work with adults by teaching classes and supporting Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). She has the type of background and commitment to the community to serve in this capacity.

The specific strength Carolyn Siebers brings to the Board is a deep understanding of the teaching process what it takes to improve instruction and how to use data identify strengths and weaknesses in programs.

I highly recommend Carolyn Siebers for the interim position with the Ann Arbor Board of Education. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Robert Galardi