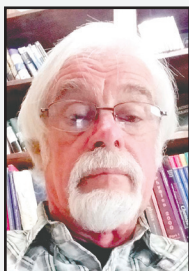


# School Board Candidates Forum Part I



## Jim Gage

My name is Jim Gage and I am running for the Schuyler County school board. I have decided to run because I believe I have a unique set of experiences that can make a difference to the community and the students of Schuyler County. After raising two children with my wife Suzanne, I moved to Schuyler County from Grunee, Illinois seventeen years ago. As a youth minister, during the past seventeen years I have been a foster parent and mentor to the area young adults in need.

My education experience started forty years ago when I served as Associate Professor of Marine Engineering at the State University of New York. During the three years I was there, I taught students in the theory, design, operation and maintenance of Naval and Merchant ship power plants. My educational experience continued thirty years later when I taught high school and middle school level science and college

level math and physics for five years here at Schuyler County as well as Moulton, Iowa for an additional two years.

Prior to moving to Schuyler County, I owned and operated an engineering company that did project management consulting for public schools as well as public libraries, counties and towns. The services that we offered were construction planning, assisting in procuring architects, engineer services, budget estimating, bidding, scheduling, and on-site owner services.

I hope you will allow me to put my professional and ministry experiences to use making a difference to our community school and its youth.

I would also like to thank the editor and staff at the Schuyler County Times for allowing me this opportunity to introduce myself to you.



## Andrew Akers

I have been employed by the Missouri Lottery since 2006 and I also farm. I am a 2000 Trenton High School graduate and a 2004 graduate of Columbia College with a bachelor of arts degree. I have been a resident of Schuyler County since 2011.

My wife, Barbi, and I have three children, Ava, a freshman, Ace, an eighth grader, and Carter, a fifth grader. All of them are students in the Schuyler R-1 School District. Barbi is employed at Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

I have been involved with the Queen City 4-H Chapter, Youth Football, and showing livestock at the Schuyler County Fair. I am also a Schuyler County 4-H shooting sports instructor.

I am running for the R-1 School Board to help ensure the future of a quality education for all the students in the district. With the potential increase in district funding, I want to make sure the funds are spent wisely and will be used to provide opportunities for our students for many years to come.



**(You will vote for ONE of these two candidates to fill a vacated board position)**



## Rob Small

### Bio

My name is Rob Small. I graduated in 1989 at Schuyler R-1. I was born and raised in Schuyler County where I grew up in Lancaster and currently reside in Greentop with my wife Lisa and three children, Summer, Trevyn, and Raina. After high school, I attended Indian Hills Community College and Central Missouri State University where I played baseball for one season. Following school, I worked as a machine operator for 12 years. I currently own two businesses within the county, Pro Foam Contracting, established in 2008, and Rob's Fireworks, established in 1992.

I have volunteered my time for several years coaching baseball, basketball, and softball on little league and travel teams traveling throughout Missouri and Iowa. I enjoy watching our teams succeed and compete. I also believe that there are many important life lessons learned

while on the field, court, track, or in the classroom. Life is about competing whether it involves sports or academics. I look forward to continuing volunteering my time to help our school succeed.

### Statement:

As parents, our children's education is our number one priority. As a board member, all Schuyler County students would be my number one priority as well. Every decision made is important and affects all of our students in some way. We should make these decisions with their best interest in mind. As a school board, we should have a vision that's sustainable and keeps us on a path of continued success. I feel I have vested interest in finding and continuing what is best for our school, academics, children, sports, and community as a whole. I am excited to see what we can accomplish in the future.



## Wanda Homer

Hello, Schuyler County! My name is Wanda Homer, and I am running for the one year term in the upcoming school board election. While I graduated from Scotland County R-1 in Memphis, MO., I have been married to Craig Homer and have lived in Schuyler County for over forty years. Craig and I are blessed to have two daughters, Miranda (Josh) Hetzler of Newton, IA and Dannon (Jacob) Califf of Ursa, IL. We are over the moon to have five grandchildren, Carter, Maxten, Sawyer, and Henzlee and baby boy Califf due in August! Craig and I live on a small farm between Queen City and Lancaster where we enjoy rural America and raising charolais/red angus cattle.

I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Development and my Masters in Education degree from Northeast Missouri State

University (now Truman State University). I started my teaching career in Wyaconda, MO, in a third/fourth grade classroom. I then taught 22 years at Schuyler R-1, predominantly in second grade. I retired from teaching in 2018 after teaching every grade except for kindergarten or first.

The reason I am running for the Schuyler R-1 School Board is simple. I love the children in this county, and I love our school! I am not done contributing to either of them. I will always want what is best for our students, our school, and our community! I will do everything I can to make the best decisions to keep our school system one of the best. I would appreciate your vote this June.

