



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jenice Coffey named Goose Creek CISD Board president

The Goose Creek CISD board of trustees reorganized on Monday, June 13, electing Jenice Coffey as president, and Howard Sampson, vice president.

"I am honored to have this opportunity to serve Goose Creek CISD as school board president. I welcome communication from all and hope to serve effectively," Coffey said.

Coffey has served as a member of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees since May 2009.

Coffey grew up in Baytown and attended Ross S. Sterling High School, graduating seventh in her class in 1974. She obtained her associate of arts degree from Lee College in 1976 as the co-valedictorian. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Houston in 1978 where she also became certified to teach English and History.

From 1978 to 1982, Coffey taught English at Cedar Bayou Junior School, where she also taught sixth-grade geography and eighth-grade history. In 1982, when Gentry Junior School opened, she moved there to teach history, serving as department chair for three of those years. While there, she was a National Junior Honor Society Board member and cheerleading sponsor.

From 1987 to 1998, she taught junior and senior English at Robert E. Lee High School, where she sponsored the Anchor Club and served as English department chair. Desiring to teach history again, she went back to Gentry in 1999. In 2004, Coffey was named Gentry's Teacher of the Year.

Sampson has represented District 1 since 2009 when he was appointed to fill the board seat left vacant by the resignation of Pheltria Barnes.

Sampson has been a resident of the district for many years, attending Harlem Elementary and Highlands Junior School. Like Coffey, he is a 1974 graduate of Sterling High School.

After graduating from Sterling, Sampson attended the University of Arkansas. Sampson made his professional debut in the NFL in 1978 with the Green Bay Packers. He played defensive back for the Green Bay Packers for his two-year career.

Sampson is currently an Assistant Superintendent in the Harris County Precinct 2 Road & Bridge Inspection Department, where he has worked since 1997.

Also Monday, the Goose Creek CISD Board welcomed two new members —Daniel Blackford and Jimmy Smith who are replacing outgoing board members Wilyne Laughlin and Bob Hoskins.

Blackford, who represents District 7, will serve as the board's secretary, and Smith, who represents District 6, will serve as assistant secretary.

Smith helps run the family business, WOWCO Equipment Co., with his wife, Shirley, and other family members. He and his wife are also the owners of J&S Towing and J&S R.V. Rentals.

Smith, 43, has been married for 24 years, and has two children, Wade and Rachel. Wade was a 2009 graduate of Sterling High School, and Rachel is a junior at Sterling.

Smith said he decided to seek place on school board "for the future."

"It's not about me it's about the generations that are coming and are here now," Smith said. "So as a team player, I plan to do my part to ensure that we provide the best for our kids so that they can have the best possible start in life."

Smith was unopposed in the May election.

Blackford has worked as a federal agent for the last 15 years, four years in his current position with the Office of the Inspector General and 11 years prior with the U.S. Secret Service. He also runs his own business as a security consultant and firearms instructor.

Blackford has two daughters, ages 12 and 13. One is a student at Cedar Bayou, and the other attends middle school in Crosby. Blackford is a 1989 graduate of Sterling.

Blackford defeated Laughlin by 10 votes in May.

"I decided to run for the school board in hopes of keeping our two most valuable assets in the classroom: if we don't have students in the seats and teachers in the classroom, we don't have much of a future as a district, city, or state." He said.

The Goose Creek school board is now comprised of two Robert E. Lee High School graduates — Agustin Loredó III and Ken Martin, and three Ross S. Sterling graduates — Coffey, Blackford, and Sampson. The other Board member is Carl Burg.

Trustees representing GCCISD single-member districts serve in staggered three-year terms.

Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

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