

Various Samples of Communications from LPAC to Volunteers or LPAC to Candidates

POTENTIAL EMAIL FOR SEEKING PAC COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Good morning!

As you may know, we have an upcoming school board election in November. School board positions are very important as school board members control much of the vision for our school corporation. They are **directly** in charge of hiring and evaluating our superintendent, approving our textbooks and other curriculum materials, approving our collective bargaining agreement, and the list goes on!! Our association NEEDS to be part of this process as their decisions directly impact what happens within our classrooms.

The filing deadline for candidates to run for school board has now passed. We are now forming a committee of members who will send a survey out to each candidate, interview each candidate who responds, decide whether or not to officially endorse candidates for each of the seats, and then decide whether or not to petition the ISTA-affiliated local PAC for a donation to a candidate or candidates. All of this must be done within approximately the next four weeks, so it's a tight timeline, but a short-term commitment (up to 90 minutes one day after school and up to two hours another day after school on two different days). **If you would like to volunteer for this committee, please let me know by the end of the day on _____!** We will settle on specific meeting days once I get our list of volunteers. Committee members do NOT have to live within the school district – as a teacher in the district, this election impacts you and your students whether you personally live here or not. Thank you for considering this important role!

The candidates who have filed:

LIST CANDIDATES HERE

As a reminder, if we choose to endorse a candidate or candidates, that information or any other information promoting a candidate cannot be communicated to members by using a school email address. If you are unsure if ISTA and our local association have your home email address on file for you, please send it to me by replying to this email! Thank you!

Sincerely,

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SAMPLE EMAIL TO LOCAL ASSOCIATION INTERVIEW TEAM

((((INSERT YOUR OWN DATES/TIMES/LOCATION/LOGISTICS))))

((((LET THE TEAM KNOW WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED AND A RUN-DOWN OF THE RACE...IF IT'S FOR MORE THAN ONE SEAT, REMIND THEM WHICH CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING AGAINST EACH OTHER))))

“Each candidate is receiving a list of questions that they will write answers to and bring with them to their interview. Those questions are more specific to (((((LOCAL)))))/ISTA-related issues. I’ve attached those questions so you can see what they’re going to be asked. We won’t have the opportunity to review their answers to those ahead of time, but can use those answers as a part of our deliberations. Interview questions will be sent out to this committee a few days before the interviews. We’re not required to ask the exact same questions of each candidate – I think we’ll definitely have a few “set” questions that we will ask all of them, but you’ll be able to ask follow-up questions and ask them to elaborate on answers during the interview. I’m also planning on printing out and sending you relevant social media posts and any other public comments that would help us get a better picture of these candidates – lots of people can “turn it on” during a 25-minute interview and tell that small audience exactly what they think that group wants to hear, so I think we have to look at anything we can get our hands on.

A preemptive reminder that the work of this committee must remain confidential. At the end of all of this, the only information we will release to anyone who was not in that room – including other association members and colleagues – is which candidates, if any, we recommended for endorsement (and even then, we actually have to get permission from any candidates we endorse before making that information public). What happens in this interview room stays in this room, and we all need to commit to that. We must maintain the integrity of this process or risk being vilified, dragging any candidates we do endorse down with us.

Please let me know if you have any questions! Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this process!

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REMINDER EMAIL TO PAC VOLUNTEERS OF INTERVIEWS

Just a reminder of this! We'll have questions ready to ask, but feel free to interject to ask clarifying questions. We want to avoid getting TOO "off-track" potentially because it's best if we get to cover all of our planned topics with all of the candidates, but it's okay to ask them to explain something a bit more. One of the most important things that we need to attempt to do is maintain our "poker faces" while talking with the candidates – nothing they say can register on our faces as either that-is-awesome or that-is-appalling. Resist any natural urge you may have to "teach" these candidates, even if they say something that you know is wrong about our district or about education in general. At the end of this process, we're telling anywhere from three to five candidates that we did NOT choose to endorse them. It's very important that we keep this process pure, and if we come off as being too argumentative during the interviews, it becomes too easy for them to start to publicly claim that it was unfair. Remember that you are representing the goals of our association and not any of your own political leanings – we are trying to identify candidates that will advance the ideals of our association.

Please let me know if you have any questions! Thanks again!