

November 11, 2021

Dr. Jerry Thacker
P-H-M Superintendent
55900 Bittersweet Rd
Mishawaka, IN 46545

RE: Letter of Interest for P-H-M Board of School Trustees Penn Township Seat #2

Dear Dr. Jerry Thacker and P-H-M Board of School Trustees:

I am pleased to express my interest in serving on the Board of School Trustees for Penn Township Seat #2 that is vacant due to the resignation of Jamie Woods. I have included my resume that outlines my qualifications, experiences, and educational background. As you will see, I have a long history of service and I am motivated by serving my community to make sure it continues to be an excellent place to live, work, play, and learn.

Eleven years ago, my wife and I chose to start our family in Penn Township because of the excellent school district. We now have four daughters with projected P-H-M graduation years of 2031, 2033, 2037, and 2040. Our oldest two daughters are in 3rd Grade and 1st Grade at Meadow's Edge Elementary School. I am willing to invest the necessary hours as a School Trustee to faithfully discharge my duties because I want to ensure that the district continues to provide an "Excellence in Education" for decades to come.

I am excited by the opportunity to ensure that the district serves the needs of all students, regardless of their abilities and backgrounds. I will provide a unique perspective to the Board of School Trustees because our oldest daughter has Down Syndrome and receives services from Exceptional Education. Based on this experience, I can provide unique perspectives and insights that can assist the Board in decision-making that will help shape P-H-M programs and policies to ensure we serve all students.

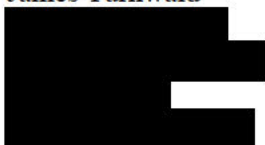
Whether in my role as the Executive Director of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) or as a board member of the Potawatomi Zoo, I have shown the ability to work well with others and support group decisions. I also have extensive experience working with Boards and understand the role of a board member and the overall governance model.

With my broad range of experiences, I know that I can contribute to the P-H-M Board of School Trustees.

Sincerely,



James Turnwald



JAMES TURNWALD



BACKGROUND

Father of four girls with projected PHM graduation years of 2031, 2033, 2037, 2040. Energetic, collaborative, results oriented, mission-driven, dynamic leader with excellent communication skills.

EDUCATION

Indiana University – South Bend, IN
Master's in Public Affairs - 2014

Miami University – Oxford, OH
Bachelor's in Geography
& Urban Planning - 2008

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Board Member
Michiana Down Syndrome
2016 – Present

Board Member
Potawatomi Zoo
2018 – Present

Board Member
South Bend Elkhart Regional Partnership
2018 – Present

Meals on Wheels Volunteer
Real Services
2017 – Present

Eagle Scout
Boy Scouts of America
1993-2003

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG)

Executive Director Aug 2014 – Present

- Leads regional planning organization focusing on studying and resolving interlocal issues for a region that encompasses four counties and 35 cities and towns.
- Works with a Board of Directors of 18 elected officials and 2 INDOT representatives.
- Oversees a staff of 20 full-time and 8 part-time professionals to assure comprehensive, cooperative and continuing policies, plans and processes are developed that reflect the current and future needs of the region.
- Lead the development of the annual work program, cost allocation plan, and budget.
- Administers annual distribution of \$12 million in federal funding for urban transportation projects.
- Actively helps to secure state and federal funds for high-priority regional and community projects.
- Oversees the Interurban Trolley, which provides transit services in Elkhart and Goshen.
- Provides staffing solutions to Transpo, St Joseph River Basin Commission and accounting services to the Northern Indiana RDA.

Principal Planner Feb 2012 – Aug 2014

- Assisted the Director with coordinating staff on plans, programs, and various other projects.
- Directly responsible for development & management of the Transportation Improvement Program.
- Coordinated staff on the development of the Michiana on the Move: 2040 Transportation Plan.
- From 2012 to 2014, helped secure \$12.5 million in federal funds for rural transportation projects.

Senior Planner Jun 2009 – Feb 2012

- Primary responsibility included tracking and managing more than fifty highway projects from funding to construction.
- Finalized Economic Development District designation from Economic Development Administration.
- In 2009, helped secure \$4 million in ARRA funds for rural transportation projects.
- From 2009 to 2012, helped secure \$8 million in federal funds for rural transportation projects.

Regional Planner Jun 2008 – Jun 2009

- Focused on transportation, economic development, multi-hazard mitigation, and freight planning.
- Assisted communities with grant applications to various Federal and State Agencies.
- From 2008 to 2009, helped secure \$4 million in federal funds for rural transportation projects.