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OCT. 5 FORUM TO FEATURE CPS BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Cincinnati Public School District Board of Education will participate in a public forum on Monday, Oct. 5, from 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Woodward Career Technical High School at 7005 Reading Road in Cincinnati. WLWT-News 5's MICHELLE HOPKINS will moderate the forum.

Sponsored by nine local organizations concerned with civic affairs, the forum is expected to be among the largest for school board candidates in Cincinnati. Candidates will have an opportunity to present their reasons for running and their qualifications, then to respond to questions about policy issues facing the Cincinnati Public Schools. These will include written questions that audience members are invited to submit.

This election year, twelve citizens are vying for four seats on the Cincinnati School Board. This is an important time to serve. CPS has a new Superintendent in Mary Ronan, new buildings, and a new Office of Innovation. In many ways it is now performing as well or better than other urban school districts in Ohio. But the new school board faces tough issues – among them, improving school performance, coping with declining resources, negotiating a new teacher union contract, and garnering stronger public support.

“This is a challenging time for everyone in public education, in part because of fiscal demands but also because of the ever increasing competition in the world economy to produce a well-educated, creative workforce and because there remains no surer route from poverty than education,” said Kent Friel, one of the forum's organizers and member of the Cincinnati Association. “Given those challenges, this is important time for the public to interact with candidates for the Board of Education and hear what ideas and visions guide their candidacies.

In addition to the Cincinnati Association, the other sponsors are: Woman's City Club, League of Women Voters, NAACP, AIR Inc, Parents for Public Schools, American Jewish Committee, Leadership Cincinnati Alumni, and STRIVE.

Parking: South of Seymour. Turn into parking lot of school property. There are two school buildings. Proceed to the “new” building (on the right) and enter the main entrance off the parking lot. The Cafetorium is just inside. If lot is full, proceed past the “new” building and park on the other side.