

August 27, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

I would like to submit my name for the open Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board position.

I am a Starkville High School graduate, and it is truly special to take my two girls to the very same schools I attended. As a Starkville native, I know so many who have given so much to our district as teachers and administrators. I would like to be able to carry on that tradition and serve our district as a School Board member.

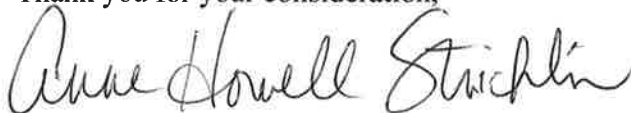
I have been an active member of the Starkville PTO for the past seven years, having served as Co-President at Sudduth and Overstreet schools as well as President of the Executive Council of Starkville School District PTO. Through this service and leadership, I am intimately acquainted with each of our campuses, including the new additions of East Oktibbeha and West Oktibbeha Elementary Schools. I have been able to witness the positive changes in our district, of which I am a product.

My prior experience as a high school teacher in Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas, as well as a college instructor in those states, gives me a unique perspective to the kinds of issues and decisions I would face. Having in-depth knowledge of curricula and effective teaching strategies will help the board in making decisions that will keep the high standard of teaching excellence that we have here. I understand the demands of the 21st century classroom and the state accountability standards we must achieve. I also have experience with teaching remedial students and the unique needs that must be met.

When our district received the consolidation legislation, there were some who wanted to fight the legislation and keep our districts separate. I was grateful to be a part of a group of local stakeholders from MSU, the SSD, and the community who discussed the needs of our new district and helped to formulate a plan for the new SOCS/MSU Partnership School for grades 6-7. I also was honored to go to Jackson as a representative of our district and city and visit with state and local leaders about the need for the Consolidation Commission, the first of its kind in our state. In addition, I have been able to meet with key state leaders concerning the lack of funding for our consolidation.

As we look at the new Starkville-Oktibbeha School District, we see new opportunities for growth. We are the premier school district in the Golden Triangle area. Our relationship and partnership with Mississippi State and the city of Starkville is key to being able to offer the highest quality education in the area, as well as attracting new industry to our county. As a School Board member, I will work to ensure that all of the children in our county have the same access to the amazing opportunities that are here. As a Starkville native and a part of the Mississippi State family, I have no greater wish than to see our district stay on a positive, successful path. I know my experience in education, in community relations, and in school involvement can help the current board continue to be successful.

Thank you for your consideration,



Anne Howell Stricklin

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

Oktibbeha residents are fortunate to have Anne Stricklin seeking to serve on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board. Anne has deep roots within the Starkville community and is herself a graduate of Starkville High school. Anne has children at Armstrong Middle School and Starkville High School, but her commitment to our schools goes far beyond the interest of her own children. Anne cares deeply about the quality of education for all students, and has advocated passionately for our students, families, teachers, and administrators through her service as a Starkville PTO member the past seven years. She has also served diligently throughout the school consolidation process in helping to formulate a plan for the new SOCD/MSU Partnership School and by meeting with key state leaders to ensure a smooth and positive transition for our students and community through its progression.

As a former teacher, Anne understands the challenges that face our teachers and administrators and will bring her vision, expertise, and dedication to ensure the high standard of teaching we have here in our schools. Her passion and commitment to providing quality education of ALL of our children is admirable and beyond reproach. She is a great listener who will fully consider all options before making important decisions and someone we can count on to be attentive, fair, and trustworthy in overseeing our schools. As a huge supporter of the Starkville public school system myself, and a mother of three who have gone through our school system, I can think of no one more qualified or passionate I would like to see appointed to the School Board at this time. As a community we are truly blessed to have a woman of Anne's caliber who is devoted to the success of our schools and is willing to serve in this capacity.

I ask that you please support our schools and our children by voting for Anne Stricklin!

Sincerely,

Dixie Cartwright
Starkville Resident since 1996.

REX BUFFINGTON

249 Lincoln Drive/Starkville, MS 39759

September 2, 2015

Starkville Board of Aldermen
Honorable Roy Perkins
Honorable Ben Carver
Honorable Lisa Wynn
Honorable David Little
Honorable Scott Maynard
Honorable Henry N. Vaughn, Jr.
Honorable Jason Walker

Starkville City Hall
Lampkin Street
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Aldermen:

I am writing in support of appointment of Anne Stricklin to the Starkville-Oktibbeha School Board. As you know, we have recently undergone a historic consolidation of schools which has required great effort from so many in our community. Anne has been at the forefront of the effort to develop a successful plan and secure funding and support for the plan locally and in Jackson. Her leadership in a volunteer role has made a huge difference, making me confident Anne would be a very effective member of the Board of Trustees of the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District as these plans are implemented over the next few years.

Anne's passion and commitment to the Starkville Schools is rooted in her own experience as an alumnus of the Starkville School District where she was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame at Starkville High School. There is no stronger advocate of our schools, and no one works harder to make our schools better and stronger. She has earned the respect and admiration of other parents, teachers and administrators as she has led so many important efforts to improve our schools. She thinks creatively and works collaboratively as she seeks the best path forward for our District. Anne has all of the skills necessary to achieve the results you and all citizens in our community want for our children.

Anne's determination to find ways to help students in our community who are struggling is another hallmark of her leadership. Even as she works to create and attract new programs and opportunities for students who are high achievers, Anne keeps her primary focus on how we can help those who need the most help. Her strong faith is evident in action as she does everything she can to make sure no one is left behind. She will be a great advocate for all students in our schools, but particularly for those who struggling at the lowest levels of achievement. Her passion for these students is an inspiration to me.

Anne Strickland will be a great addition to the School Board. She contributes much to any effort and works well with others, but she is never reluctant to stand alone if necessary. Her integrity is impeccable, and it has earned her a reputation for fairness with everyone who knows her.

It says a lot about our community and our schools in particular that we are able to attract someone like Anne Stricklin to service on the School Board. Anne is the best of the best – we are blessed as a community to have her willing to serve in this challenging position. By placing her in this key leadership position you will provide a great service to your constituents. Our schools will thrive under her leadership, which will bring benefits to our entire community.

This appointment is extremely important to our future – there is so much at stake at this crucial point in the history of our schools. Building the new 6-7 grade school on the campus of Mississippi State University is exciting, but it will require strong leadership from our Board to ensure its successful completion. Anne is in a unique position to help pull all of the pieces together. She has proven her effectiveness in bringing people together to achieve a common goal, and that is exactly what we need as we implement this plan.

Thank you for your service to our city, and for the opportunity to write on behalf of Anne Stricklin. I know her appointment to the School Board is one in which you will take great pride.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex Buffington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rex Buffington

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

Oktibbeha residents are fortunate to have Anne Stricklin seeking to serve on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board. Anne has deep roots within the Starkville community and is herself a graduate of Starkville High school. Anne has children at Armstrong Middle School and Starkville High School, but her commitment to our schools goes far beyond the interest of her own children. Anne cares deeply about the quality of education for all students, and has advocated passionately for our students, families, teachers, and administrators through her service as a Starkville PTO member the past seven years. She has also served diligently throughout the school consolidation process in helping to formulate a plan for the new SOCD/MSU Partnership School and by meeting with key state leaders to ensure a smooth and positive transition for our students and community through its progression.

As a former teacher, Anne understands the challenges that face our teachers and administrators and will bring her vision, expertise, and dedication to ensure the high standard of teaching we have here in our schools. Her passion and commitment to providing quality education of ALL of our children is admirable and beyond reproach. She is a great listener who will fully consider all options before making important decisions and someone we can count on to be attentive, fair, and trustworthy in overseeing our schools. As a huge supporter of the Starkville public school system myself, and a mother of three who have gone through our school system, I can think of no one more qualified or passionate I would like to see appointed to the School Board at this time. As a community we are truly blessed to have a woman of Anne's caliber who is devoted to the success of our schools and is willing to serve in this capacity.

I ask that you please support our schools and our children by voting for Anne Stricklin!

Sincerely,

Dixie Cartwright
Starkville Resident since 1996.

September 1, 2015

Board of Aldermen
City of Starkville
101 E. Lampkin Street
Starkville, Mississippi 39759

Dear Board Members,

With great pleasure, I am recommending Anne Howell Stricklin for appointment to the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District's Board of Trustees. Anne is smart, energetic, creative and passionate about our schools, qualities that we need to lead us in the coming years. I have had the privilege of working with Anne in recent years. We have served together as members of the superintendent's round table, the school district's strategic planning committee, the selection panel for the Starkville High School Principal, and most recently as members of the committee of community members who have worked to formulate plans for the new consolidated district. I have seen her "in action" and am confident that she is a proven leader.

Anne will not shy away from difficult issues. Every decision she will make will have the interests of the students first and foremost in her mind. With experience as a high school teacher and college instructor, Anne understands the workings of the K-12 environment. She will be committed to researching and studying every issue at hand and will be fair-minded in making decisions.

As a child of Starkville and a graduate of Starkville High School, Anne has a sincere passion for our school district. She has made the improvement of it a mission of hers. When the consolidation legislation was first introduced, Anne embraced the opportunity to bring our two school districts together. She did not wait for the legislature to give instructions on how to achieve this; instead Anne began to identify strategies for a successful consolidation. She facilitated meetings with key legislators and state leaders to ensure that they heard the voices of parents and community members here in Starkville. She has been tireless in her efforts to provide the very best education for all students in Oktibbeha County at a time when some parents merely sat back and waited for consolidation to happen.

The upcoming school board appointment is critical to our continued success. I am thankful that a leader such as Anne Stricklin is willing to give of her time and talent to serve. There is not a more qualified candidate for this position. Thank you for your consideration of Anne Howell Stricklin.

Gratefully,



Anne Buffington

September 2, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

I would like to show my support for Anne Howell Stricklin who has submitted her name for the open Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board position.

Anne's resume speaks volumes to her qualifications for this position! She has been an active member of the Starkville PTO for over 7 years, while serving in many leadership roles

Anne was very instrumental in the groundwork for the consolidation of the Starkville School District and the Oktibbeha County School Districts. She was on the committee who helped organize the plan for the SOCS/MSU Partnership School for graded 6-7.

Anne's professional background as a high school teacher and also a college instructor adds an additional perspective that she would bring to the school board position.

Anne is deeply embedded in the community in which she was raised. She loves our community and our schools and will work tirelessly to make sure our schools are the best they can be!

Sincerely,

Laura Bryan
662 312-4974

Lesa Hardin

From: Kathy Snell <kathysnell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 10:57 AM
To: l.hardin@cityofstarkville.org
Subject: Letter of support for Anne Stricklin

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

September 2, 2015

Dear Starkville Board of Aldermen,

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Anne Stricklin in the SSD/SOCSD PTO for many years, and was very happy to hear that she would like to serve on the SOCSD School Board. Anne is an excellent choice for this position. She possesses a unique set of skills and qualities that are perfect for this district in this time. I want to let you know of some of her background and attributes that make her the best choice to fill the seat on the school board.

Anne is truly a champion of the public school. While some others in high level positions at MSU choose to send their children to private schools, the Stricklin family is very vocal and positive in saying that they are proud of the public schools we have and are sure their children are getting the best education right here in our public schools. Anne knows the value of a diverse setting for learning, not only for academic subjects, but in all other areas - visual and performing arts, sports, music, and others. As someone that feels the same way, I love to hear her talk about it. Her passion on the subject is very easy to see!

Anne has a lifelong knowledge and understanding of the needs of our district. Anne and I both grew up in Starkville and attended the Starkville School District. Anne has a more in-depth appreciation for the challenges unique to our district, especially during this time of growth as we bring our county schools into the fold. From the first time consolidation was mentioned in our PTO meetings, Anne has been ready to move forward with an "all hands on deck" attitude. She wants only the best for every student in Oktibbeha County.

Anne knows the challenges and opportunities of our district from many different viewpoints. She has been a high school teacher in several different schools, so she has the perspective of an educator. She also is a parent to two daughters currently in school in our district, so she has the perspective of a parent. Anne also is a leader in our community, and has a very good sense of what is needed for the community to best prosper. Additionally, Anne has good business sense. Anne knows that one of the major keys to community growth is attracting industry, and that you need good public schools to attract that industry. Anne will keep all of this in the forefront of her mind when making decisions on the school board.

Anne has a solid background in the education field. Anne taught for quite a few years and has experienced and learned quite a bit about issues related to curriculum, communications with parents and community, teacher development, and many other issues that are the "nuts and bolts" of an operating school district.

Anne is invested heavily in this community, and will be for life. When Scott and Anne came to Starkville, she came home. Anne loves Starkville, and that will always be true. Given that fact and all of the qualities I have mentioned above, she is the perfect choice for SOCSD School Board.

Thanks so much for reading my letter, and for the job you do as Alderman for our great city,

Kathy Snell
SHS Class of 1987

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2013.0.3532 / Virus Database: 4365/10562 - Release Date: 09/02/15

Starkville Board of Alderman
Starkville, MS 39759

September 2, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Anne Howell Stricklin for the vacant school board position of the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District. I would like to sum up my opinion of Anne's qualifications based on my experiences with her.

I have had the pleasure of serving with with Anne for over ten years in our school district. Our children began at Sudduth Elementary and it is also where we first served together. In addition to serving as Sudduth's co-president, she was the chair for Sudduth's Used Book Fair which was a project to collect gently used books and give to each child in the school. Sudduth had many projects throughout the year, and still does. One could say the Used Book Fair is one of its less glamorous events yielding little fanfare. This was not a factor for Anne. I suspect, if anything, this propelled her decision to chair the book fair all the more. I knew this to be a very dear project for Anne because of what I believed to be her passion for children of all backgrounds. Having observed her dedication, I was motivated to also take on the dual task of co-president and chair of the Used Book Fair the following year.

Just recently, while volunteering as a test proctor at Armstrong Middle School, a lady and I began talking as we waited to be assigned our destinations. During our conversation, the lady told me how while she was younger she enjoyed volunteering at her kids' schools and now she loves helping her daughter by being their for her grandchildren. Unbeknownst to me then, that woman was Anne's mother. Looking back on that encounter, I now understand that Anne's servant attitude and love for Starkville Oktibbeha schools are deeply and genuinely rooted. This is her home and I believe she is committed to helping us succeed.

Last year, I watched Anne tirelessly work to unify our community as consolidation began to unfold in our community. Anne did not base her opinions on popularity, but instead she based them on what was the right thing to do for everyone involved. I believe Anne will continue to work in this fashion on the school board. My husband and I have two sons in the district. I would be pleased to have her represent our interests because I know she will do so fairly and with the utmost integrity.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lockett
(662)546-4515
us@thelockettfamily.com

August 31, 2015

Dear Starkville Board of Aldermen,

I am writing this letter to enthusiastically recommend Anne Stricklin for Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees. As an alumna of Starkville School District and an involved parent of two daughters currently enrolled in the SOCSO, Anne is exceptionally qualified to serve our district in this capacity.

Since her return to Starkville in 2008, Anne has championed public education in our community in many different ways. She has devoted countless hours volunteering in the classroom, through PTA/PTO, and other councils and committees in both official and unofficial capacities – including the Superintendent's Roundtable, the SSD Strategic Planning Team, and the search to hire SHS's Principal David Baggett. In addition, she has devoted herself to connecting our school district and Mississippi State University, most notably by spearheading the highly successful Maroon Friday tee shirt project as well as through her ongoing recruitment of new MSU families to our school district. She was an early and ardent supporter of the SOCSO consolidation efforts and could always be counted on to remind us all that the bottom line was to find a solution that served ALL of our community's children.

Anne is a natural and experienced leader, having served as PTA President at both Overstreet and Sudduth Elementary Schools and most recently as Starkville School District PTO President. She is an extremely smart, thoughtful, and conscientious person who can always be relied upon to show up and get to work.

It is for all of these reasons that the Starkville Foundation for Public Education and the Starkville School District inducted Anne into this year's Hall of Famous, a prestigious award for alumni of the SOCSO who have had a strong impact on their communities and beyond.

Simply put, Anne Stricklin is an outstanding candidate for the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees. We need Anne!

Sincerely,

Nelle Cohen
Past President, Starkville Foundation for Public Education
Proud parent of two SHS graduates (2013, 2015)
nelle.cohen@gmail.com
662-418-1843

September 4, 2015

To: The Starkville Board of Aldermen:

Please find this letter in support of the candidacy of Ms. Anne Howell Stricklin for the currently vacant Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board position.

Ms. Stricklin and I have worked together on the Starkville PTO for approximately seven years. In that role I have seen and known her to be highly reliable, well principled, a leader, a role model and a strong advocate for the district. Two particular instances in which I have seen her excel are leadership in the consolidation of our new district and in advocating for academic programming. In my experience, some of the issues related to public education can at times be divisive and contentious. Where to locate academic programs, processing of administrative hires, school uniforms/ dress codes, and changes in curriculum standards often create spirited discourse. In these cases I have known Ms. Stricklin to be level headed and optimistic, always with an eye towards a better future - together. In sum, I have every confidence that she will be a welcome addition to the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District school board.

Sincerely,

Fatima Shmusky

662-324-3725

September 3, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

We are writing in support of Anne Howell Stricklin as a member of the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board.

We have known Mrs. Stricklin for 32 years. We watched her grow up her in Starkville, attending the Starkville Public Schools. We watched her attend college. We watched her return and marry a fine young man. We watched as they moved to take advantage of various opportunities through the years. And we watched as they moved back to Starkville to become leaders in the community and Mississippi State. In all of that watching, we have always been impressed by her ability and personality.

Mrs. Stricklin has a fine family. Her parents are outstanding members of the community and supporters of Mississippi State. Her sisters all have strong families and are outstanding members of their respective communities. Her family is well respected in the community, the university and the church.

As you know from her application, Anne attended Starkville Public Schools and now has children in the same public schools. She has been very active in our public schools, not only with her children's classes, but with the district as a whole. She is a dedicated promoter of the schools. She also has a great heart for improving the education of the children of Starkville and Oktibbeha County. She also has direct experience in teaching at the high school and college levels.

We cannot think of anyone who would be better suited for a position on the School Board. Mrs. Stricklin has the intelligence, drive, level-headedness, patience, and sensitivity to perform well on the Board.

We urge you to give her application the greatest consideration.

Dr. John Giesemann,
Professor – Mississippi State University

Mrs. Ruth Giesemann
Dental Hygienist for Dr. Dwight Harding

September 3, 2015

Dear Board of Aldermen,

I have had two children graduate from the Starkville School District, and have one child currently in tenth grade. I attend most school board meetings, and have seen the beneficial effects of high quality school board members, and the damage that can be done by weak board members.

I would like to recommend Anne Stricklin for our next School Board member. Anne graduated from the Starkville School District, currently has her children enrolled in the district, and has been very involved in many aspects of school activities, parent organizations and the consolidation process.

I have worked closely with Anne through the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization, formerly PTA), and as a stakeholder in the consolidation process. I feel Anne has many important qualities that would make her a valuable asset to the school board. She has a good understanding of what is important for our district, since she has worked in the field of education. She is organized, attentive, and asks good questions. She listens to all sides of issues, and is open to new ideas.

Anne's concerns are for the school district as a whole. She has embraced the idea of consolidation, and wants every child in our district to be given the tools they require to succeed. She is familiar with the issues and problems we have faced through mandatory consolidation combined with a lack of extra funding, and has been part of the solution with her work in the stakeholder meetings. She is also familiar with the future plans of the MSU-Starkville Oktibbeha Partnership School.

I think it is important to choose a school board member, like Anne, who is familiar with what is happening in our district. There have been a lot of recent changes, and it would be very helpful to have a new school board member who has been involved with both the history and the future plans of our district.

I think we have made some huge improvements in the district, and have very forward thinking principals at our schools. It is of the utmost importance we provide the district with a knowledgeable, committed school board member to help continue to lead us in the right direction. I recommend Anne Stricklin as the next school board member, and I have complete confidence in her ability to move our district forward.

Sincerely,

Simone Mackin

September 3, 2015

To The Starkville Board of Aldermen:

I am writing this letter in support of my friend, Anne Stricklin, to be appointed to the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School Board. I believe that Anne will be a wonderful addition to the SOCS D Board.

As a proud graduate of Starkville High School, Anne has continued her support and love for public schools by first becoming a public school teacher and later, a public school parent. When she moved back to Starkville, Anne jumped into PTO with both feet. She has always worked hard for the schools and gladly volunteered to take on any responsibility or leadership role.

As a parent of 4 SOCS D students, nothing makes me happier than seeing leaders in the City of Starkville and in the Mississippi State University community sending their kids to public schools. I have known Anne since she moved back to Starkville and there was never any doubt where her two daughters were going to be attending school and she didn't just drop the girls off at the door, she got involved. Anne has worked tirelessly to promote SOCS D. Whenever she has the opportunity to engage with a new MSU staff member moving into the community, she is taking their family on a tour of the public schools.

Anne is easy to work with and always willing to stand up for what she believes in. She is also extremely well prepared for any task that is put in front of her. She will always come to meetings prepared and ready to listen to others view before she must make a decision.

The message that I am trying to convey to all of you is that you will NOT find a better candidate for the school board than Anne Stricklin. She is the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District! She embodies all the values that we strive to instill in SOCS D graduates. She understands who we are and how important a role the public schools play in the overall success of our community.

I appreciate your time and I do hope that Anne Stricklin will get your vote to serve on the SOCS D Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Katy Richey

September 3, 2015

To the Board of Aldermen:

I would like to submit a letter of support for Anne Howell Stricklin to be appointed to Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board member.

I have worked with Anne on a number of occasions during the past six years and I know her to be a true "boots on the ground" advocate for our district. I am the current President for Starkville Foundation for Public Education. The first week of school Anne called me to see how the Foundation could solve a problem at the SHS. She was orchestrating a way for SFPE to give scholarships to SHS students who wanted to take dual enrollment classes but couldn't afford the classes. Mr. Baggett came to Anne with the concern because he knew with her connections and resources; she would find a way to solve the problem. I spoke to my board, had a vote, and funding was approved by noon that day. Now, no child will be turned away from dual enrollment because of financial reasons. This wasn't a problem her child had or any organization she was running, just Anne looking out for every child in SOCSO.

I have also served under Anne on the PTO executive board for the district during the consolidation process. I find her to be fair and even-tempered. She was very informative about the process when most of us were nervous about the unknown. She helped devise a plan to make our consolidation a success. She also went to Jackson to lobby for our groundbreaking SOCD/MSU partnership school. Anne is a product of this district, and I can tell by her actions that she feels a huge responsibility to do everything in her power to make it the best district it can be. As PTO executive board president, she knows each school, their strengths and where they need help.

I have seen her serve as PTO president on the school level as well, and I know first-hand how much work that position can be. She has put in the time selling maroon Friday t-shirts so all of our kids can wear "one bark one bite" t-shirts on Friday. Did you know when we consolidated, those t-shirts are what the new students were most excited about? As a highly involved and invested parent in SOCSO, I would feel very confident having Anne Stricklin representing me. She has education experience on the high school and college level, and knows each of our schools intimately. She shares my values, that every child in our district deserves a great education. She also has developed connections to help her get things done in our town and our State. Most of all, I know what a hard worker she is not only for her children, but for all of the children of SOCSO.

Sincerely,

Susan Ford

September 3, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

I am writing to express my support of Anne Stricklin for the upcoming appointment to the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees.

During this first year of consolidation, our school district is poised to be a groundbreaking example for the entire state in how a successful school merging can become more than merely the sum of its parts. The planned 6-7th grade Partnership School with Mississippi State University will be the first of its kind in the state and offer every student access to the very latest in teaching practices. We have *many* opportunities before us, and taking full advantage of those opportunities will require thoughtful consideration of a multitude of issues, the careful navigation of both new and existing partnerships, as well as a strong understanding of the needs of parents, students and teachers alike. Further, this crucial time for our district will also require leaders with proven experience in strongly advocating for our students and our community on a variety of fronts. In my opinion, there is no better candidate than Anne Stricklin to fulfill all these requirements.

On the local front, Anne is intimately acquainted with the partnership that must be fostered between parents and schools, as she has served as a voice for parents in her role with the Starkville-Oktibbeha PTO. Anne has served as president of the organization's executive council, interfacing with parents from every school in the former Starkville School District, as well as reaching out to foster new relationships with PTO groups in the former Oktibbeha County schools. In addition, Anne served on the district's strategic planning committee responsible for developing the most recent strategic plan, as well as on a stakeholder advisory group for the development of plans for the MSU Partnership School. Through these roles, I believe Anne is very well versed in both the needs and goals of the district from the parent and community perspectives.

Beyond Anne's experience advocating for students, parents and teachers locally, she has had an equally important impact on the district at the state level. Through the last two years leading up to consolidation, I was able to attend virtually every meeting of the Commission on Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School Structure, the advisory body created by the Mississippi Legislature and charged with making recommendations for the best methods of structuring the consolidated district. Through those meetings, I saw first-hand how crucial the process of community involvement became in developing a plan for successful consolidation. The Commission was the **ONLY** one of its kind in the state that actually sought community input in the mechanics of merging school districts. We simply would not have had this unique and vital opportunity to structure our own consolidation if it had not been for the willingness of Anne Stricklin and others to boldly advocate for it.

In the weeks following the introduction of the initial legislation mandating consolidation, Anne traveled to Jackson with a group of community stakeholders to meet with lawmakers, the Lieutenant Governor and others to advocate for the creation of the Commission and several other elements of the final legislation. This specific advocacy helped to ensure a successful start for the new district right from the outset. She has continued to advocate for the state funding needed to fulfill the district's future plans. Her ability to see the possibilities consolidation could bring for our community and her willingness to bring her

impactful role in the Mississippi State community to bear have quite literally been game-changers.

Now, as we move forward through the nuts and bolts of making consolidation work long-term, we need a leader on the Board of Trustees who has been involved in the process from the beginning – and every step of the way – with an unwavering commitment to advocate for the needs of our students. I believe Anne Stricklin is that person.

Thank you for your consideration,
Haley Montgomery

Small business owner
Parents for Public Schools of Starkville board member
Parent to three Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District students



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development

September 1, 2015

To: Starkville Board of Aldermen

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Anne Howell Stricklin for the Starkville School Board. I have known Anne since she was in middle school and we attended church together, my daughter was a tea girl in her wedding reception, and I have closely followed Anne and her family since that time.

Having served on the Starkville-Oktibbeha County School Consolidation Commission, I can tell you from firsthand experience Anne has been a major force behind the success of the consolidation efforts to date. After the shock of the legislation that was introduced to consolidate the two schools I think everyone, me included, had to step back, take a breath, and determine what our course of action needed to be. Anne very quickly came to the conclusion that this was the right thing to do if it was done the right way, and she set out to lead efforts to be sure that it was done in that right way. She tirelessly worked to organize and lead efforts to engage parents, engender dialog on the issues and opportunities, and ultimately muster support for the consolidation efforts. Not only did she work with parents, she also engaged community leaders as well as local and state political leadership to be sure that local interests were heard. She traveled to Jackson and hosted local events throughout the Commission's efforts, and since that time has continued to be a strong voice through the consolidation planning and execution process. We were very fortunate to have her in a leadership position in the Parent-Teacher Organization during this process, as she used the position and her passion for public education very effectively to advocate for legislative and community support. Anne was highly respected by all involved, and she never hesitated to use this respect to advocate for the best interest of every child in the new consolidated district. Anne has been a tireless advocate for public education in general, and has been willing to lend her name and support in public announcements and speaking opportunities.

Anne has also been an active member of the Starkville Church of Christ, particularly in our education programs. Anne and Scott have served in leadership roles in our pre-school worship program, and in home-based bible studies. She has also taught adult ladies' classes and assisted with a variety of other programs. In all of this, Anne has led by example as well as by word, and clearly demonstrates her faith in every aspect of her life.

I lend my unqualified support for the selection of Anne Stricklin for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David R. Shaw".

David R. Shaw, Vice President for Research
and Economic Development

TONYA W. STONE

2501 Plum Rd,
Starkville, MS 39759
662.648.9602
tonyawstone@gmail.com

September 4, 2015

Starkville Board of Aldermen
City of Starkville
101 E. Lampkin St.
Starkville, MS 39759

To: Starkville Board of Alderman

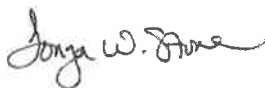
I would like to recommend Anne Stricklin for the open position on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District (SOCSD) School Board.

I have known Anne for several years through our work together on the previous Starkville School District (SSD) PTA and the more recent SSD PTO. During the 2013-2014 school year, I worked closely with her while she served as President and I served as Treasurer of the Executive Council of the SSD PTO. She always brought a passion for the school district to our meetings, and her focus was continually on the children of our community. In her role as President of Executive Council, Anne displayed respect for all voices. When she did not have a solution, she worked alongside others to come up with progressive answers to meet our needs and to plan for the future.

One thing Anne has spearheaded for the past three years on the SSD PTO was a community-building t-shirt project that brought together the city and university mascots. Initially a small fundraising project, the t-shirt project has turned into a major fundraiser that is well received by the community. As a testament to her leadership efforts, we more than quadrupled our estimated sales during the first year of this project. Anne's work towards connecting the city and university not only raised money for ongoing consolidation projects, but it also brought a spirit of unity to those families who love both schools. I have no doubt that she will continue to foster relationships between our school district and our university and be able to grow that relationship even more while serving on the SOCSD School Board.

As alumna of Starkville High School, Anne and I share a desire to keep the high standards of the schools we had for our own children. Her past experiences as a high school teacher and college instructor serve her immensely in understanding school culture, as well as the needs of students and teachers. Anne wants to make our community better, and she does that through hard work and having a presence at each school in our district. I have no doubt Anne's previous work in education and in community relations will make her an outstanding SOCSD School Board member.

Best regards,



Tonya Williams Stone

September 3, 2015

City of Starkville
Board of Aldermen
c/o Lesa Hardin
101 East Lampkin Street
Starkville, MS 39759

Members of the Board:

This letter is written in support of Anne Stricklin for the position currently open on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board. I have known Anne for many years and have worked closely with her on a number of projects both in my role as a Starkville Public School parent and as director of marketing at OCH Regional Medical Center.

Anne's background and many accomplishments make her an ideal candidate for this position. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the job, having been involved with our school system in a variety of different roles, including as a graduate of SHS, mother of two children currently in the system, active member of numerous PTO boards within the District, and having served as president of the District's Executive Council.

In addition, Anne has played-- and continues to play-- a key role in the consolidation process both at the local and state levels. She has been "on board" with the process from the beginning, working tirelessly to help ensure the District receives the necessary funding and the children of Starkville and Oktibbeha County have the facilities and resources necessary to realize their full potential.

Yet another of Anne's many strengths is her in-depth knowledge of teaching, curricula and testing, and overall classroom management, having served as a high school teacher and college instructor in several different states. She knows first-hand what it takes for teachers and students to excel and realizes that setting the bar high is a vital part of this process!

Last, but certainly not least, Anne's ties to Mississippi State University are a huge asset for our school district. The partnerships she has helped forge between the District and University to date have made-- and will continue to make-- a positive and lasting impact on our students and community, and I'm certain she will continue to help further develop this relationship.

In closing, I support Anne for this position because she is passionate about public education and, specifically, the success of our District. I know she can be counted on to always take the responsibilities that come with serving in this role very seriously and to perform the duties to the best of her ability. In fact, I can think of no other better suited to serve on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board, and I hope you will give her your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Melody H. Thurlow

September 4, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

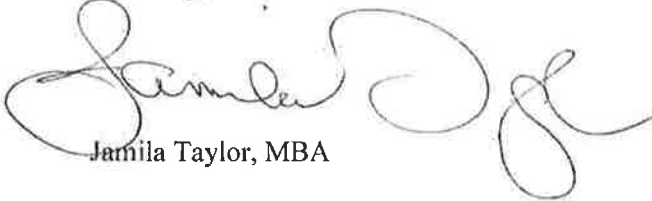
My name is Jamila Taylor and I have been a resident of Starkville for 12 years. My two children attend Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District and I am an active parent within the school district.

I am honored to write a letter supporting Anne Stricklin for the vacant school board position. I had the opportunity to meet Anne about 7 years ago working with the PTO, and from that moment I saw the passion that we both shared for the Starkville School District. I have worked with Anne on a number of committees and served under her leadership. Her diligence, knowledge and commitment to ensure the students and staff within the district have optimal schools that are safe and create a friendly learning environment for **ALL** has been her life's work since returning to this great town.

Once our district received the consolidation legislation, we knew this was a great opportunity for the district to create a foundation for success for students no matter where they reside in Starkville. Anne and I became a part of a local stakeholders group speaking out with local supporters and with state legislators about the great impact consolidation will have on our community; Anne was one of the key leaders in this movement.

I believe Anne will be a vital asset to the school board as she continues to work on behalf of all the families in our community and with community partners to ensure each student has equal and ample opportunities to reach his or her greatest potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jamila Taylor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Jamila Taylor, MBA".

Jamila Taylor, MBA

Lesla Hardin

From: Christine Williams <lcw123@msstate.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 1:23 PM
To: l.hardin@cityofstarkville.org
Subject: Support for Anne Stricklin

Dear Starkville Board,

I wanted to take a moment to send support for Anne Stricklin's desire to serve on our SOCSO School Board. I have known her, in conjunction with various school PTA/PTO capacities and as a parent of children who play local sports. I have found her to be both a supportive parent and a resourceful advocate for our children, our teachers, and our administration.

I have no doubt that she has the best interest of our community and our citizenry at heart. I feel that we would be remiss as a community to pass over the opportunity to have her experience, loyalty, and love factor into the decisions behind advancing our children and our community!

Mr. Ben Carver is my alderman and I would appreciate you ensuring that he is aware of this message of support.

Respectfully,
Christine Williams, MPPA
Graduate Teaching Assistant
PPA PhD Student
662-617-4476

No virus found in this message.
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Version: 2013.0.3532 / Virus Database: 4365/10575 - Release Date: 09/04/15

106 Banyan Rd.
Starkville, MS 39759

September 3, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Alderman:

I am writing this letter in support of Anne Stricklin pursuing the open position on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School Board. It is my hope that you will not only consider Anne as a candidate for the position but that you will appoint her.

As a native of Starkville, Anne understands the legacy and history of public education in Starkville, MS. She has a clear understanding of both the strengths that our district has, but also of the challenges that we currently face. Anne believes in the public education system for all children and her passion is evident by her service and tireless efforts in our district.

Since returning to Starkville several years ago, Anne has been an active supporter of the district in a variety of ways. She has served on the PTO as Co-President at two schools and has also served as President of the Executive PTO. In these roles, she has witnessed first hand many changes and transitions in the district and has never wavered in her support or dedication. All those who know Anne know how committed she is to seeing our district succeed and all students receive the education they deserve. She has been an integral part of supporting the recent consolidation and has brought people together because of her passion and willingness to listen and talk with others.

Anne has many other qualities that I believe make her an outstanding choice for the school board. In addition to her passion and dedication, she is a person of great integrity and honesty. I believe this is an important quality for our school board members to possess. In addition, Anne is hard working. She never asks others to work hard for something that she herself is not willing to put her efforts into. As a leader, Anne is respected by those who work under her because of her willingness to work hard and respect that she shows for others. She is a good listener and has the great ability to show compassion while standing firm for what she believes is right. Furthermore, she has experience in teaching and brings an understanding of what educators face in today's world as they prepare students for adulthood. Finally, Anne sees the importance of bringing people together to accomplish the task at hand and believes in a unified effort to make the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District truly one of the best there is.

I personally have worked with Anne in many different roles, organizations and projects over the last few years. I have a lot of tremendous respect for her character and her commitment to finish any job she begins. Not only is she committed to finishing but also to completing the job well. I think she would be a tremendous asset to the local school board in so many ways and know that she will serve well.

I appreciate your time and consideration and ask that you support Anne Stricklin by appointing her to the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School Board.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Palmer

September 4, 2015

RE: School Board Letter of Support for Anne Stricklin

Honored Board of Aldermen,

I write to you today to express my support for Anne Stricklin in her goal of being appointed to the Starkville-Oktibbeha School District. I have known Anne for the better part of a decade as our daughters are the same age and have grown up together. Both of our daughters have always attended the public school system here and have had very positive experiences with the district.

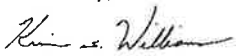
By virtue of our daughters being good friends, I have attended countless school functions, community events, softball and basketball games, as well as many other functions with Anne present. This time has allowed me great insight into Anne's thought process and dedication to our schools. I have spoken at length with Anne regarding the consolidation process and the campaign to bring a lab school to the MSU campus. She has worked tirelessly to promote this consolidation process. I urge you to read her application letter and consider her experience as an alumni of the district, as a former teacher, and as a leader within our PTO. It should be blatantly obvious that she is heavily invested and more than qualified to hold this position.

And now for the elephant in the room. Anne is the spouse of MSU's athletic director. She is also the daughter of Bailey Howell, a beloved athlete who played for MSU, went on to a successful professional career, and is enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame. Many of you may give pause to contemplate the implications of having such a high profile persona on the school board. I would advise you to consider what advantages that would give our district. My personal belief is that her name recognition would add cause for state politicians to pay attention to our district. She has already represented the city and district in talking to state leaders in Jackson, advocating for increased funding and a smooth transition process as the two districts consolidated.

I will leave you with a personal story regarding a recent encounter I had with Anne. After returning home from a lengthy business trip, I received a Twitter and Facebook update relating to the recent Superintendent issue. While still in the airport, I shot off a quick post linking to the story and stated that I knew I was back home when it's the first day of school and my superintendent has been arrested. I simply thought it was a smart-aleck response that might get a laugh. Later that evening Anne sent me a message asking if I would remove my post. As she expressed to me, she did not want the event to cast a negative shadow on the momentum gained in the consolidation effort. As a journalism educator, I responded that it's both dicey and tough to retract information which is verifiably accurate but as a personal favor to a friend (Anne) I would remove the post. Looking back I now realize, and hope you will also, what Anne was committing to at that moment. She created what could be a tense moment between friends, risking offending that friend, because of the good of the school district. She never defended the superintendent's actions or criticized them. She solely wanted pride and progress to remain with the newly consolidated district. She placed the district first, ahead of politics and ahead of personal relationships.

For these reasons, I strongly support Anne Stricklin in her effort to serve as a board member within my daughter and son's school district. She will do right, first, by those students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kevin D. Williams

Associate Professor

Department of Communication

Mississippi State University

*STARKVILLE COUNSELING ASSOCIATES, LLC
Leslie Fye, MS, LPC, NCC
205 S. Lafayette Street
Starkville, MS 39759*

Starkville Board of Aldermen
Via Email: To Lesa Hardin
l.hardin@cityofstarkville.org

To Whom It May Concern:

I offer my letter of support for Anne Stricklin. I have known Mrs. Stricklin for 10 years. We share two children in the same grades and have worked together these 10 years in PTA and PTO endeavors, where she has held every position of leadership that one can hold within our system. Mrs. Stricklin carries the voice of a hometown resident whose life spans the past 30+ years of consolidation discussions as well as the broken relationships and complexities that have occurred in the past and the present. Furthermore, her understanding of the unique connection between this city and our great university and how that impacts education and economic growth is about as up close and personal a perspective as one can find in Starkville. Finally, and maybe more importantly, she has positive relationships with our principals, our teachers, our students and our parents. She has been actively involved in the schools. She knows what they need, and she has earned their trust and respect. This has been sorely lacking on the Board. We are at a time in our history where to move forward we need individuals on the Board that have been actively involved in our district – both old and new. We need a Board member who wants to create unity and positive relationships and will hold respect and understanding for more than one perspective. This has been a difficult and divisive time. It is my hope that you will choose Mrs. Stricklin for her ability to bring people together rather than divide them.

Sincerely,

Leslie Fye
Licensed Professional Counselor and Executive Director
Starkville Counseling Associates, LLC

408 Greensboro Street
Starkville, MS 3975
September 4, 2015

Dear Mayor and members of the Starkville Board of Alderman:

I am writing in support of Anne Howell Stricklin's application for appointment to the Starkville Oktibbeha School District Board of Trustees.

Every appointment to a City Board is important, but in many ways the appointment of members to School Board of Trustees is one of the most important decisions you as a Board make. The state of our public schools has a direct affect on our community's growth, economic development, and future of our citizens.

Anne is a product of these very schools and understands the commitment of those who have served on this Board before. Her educational background is education and she has spent time in the classroom at various levels.

She is an advocate for students and staff and has been an active volunteer in the District since she and her family returned to Starkville. Her vision of how we as parents and residents should advocate for our schools is outstanding and she is a large reason many of us are better able to speak, without reservation, about the easiest choice we have made to send our children to our public schools.

In my role as president for Starkville Parents for Public Schools, I found Anne to be an invaluable ally during the consolidation process of our two districts. While some members of the community fought the consolidation effort, Anne knew that the children of Oktibbeha County deserved better. She worked with members of the legislature to be a part of the solution to bring the educational offerings of all our children up to the same standard. She was able to be a critical and independent thinker to bring consensus and a positive resolution of this change.

As you make this appointment, I know you have many considerations. However, I hope that Anne's proven dedication and knowledge of our District will be a deciding factor in your deliberation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jones
Ward 1 Resident
gmwjones@gmail.com

Lesla Hardin

From: Gibson, Tamara <Gibson@its.msstate.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 10:36 AM
To: l.hardin@cityofstarkville.org
Subject: Letter of Support for Ann Stricklin

September 03, 2015

TO: Starkville Board of Aldermen:

I am writing this letter to show support of Ann Stricklin as a member of the School Board of the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District.

I have worked closely with Ann in this fight to make sure that our children receive the best opportunities for learning and growth that our community can provide. Over the years we both served on different school PTA/PTO groups and other school related committees. Ann is very knowledgeable of the needs and wants of this district. She has always been a very vocal parent advocate for public education. I am confident that she will serve fairly and objectively while always keeping the best interest of our children at the forefront of her decisions.

Please contact me if any additional information is needed at tpg1@msstate.edu or 662-722-0262.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tamara Gibson
SSD and SHS 2012 Parent of the Year
SFPE Scholarship Chair 2014-2015

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Version: 2013.0.3532 / Virus Database: 4365/10575 - Release Date: 09/04/15

Lesia Hardin

From: Tracy Wetherbee <twetherbee13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 11:14 AM
To: l.hardin@cityofstarkville.org
Subject: Anne Stricklin - School Board Candidate

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation in regards to Mrs. Anne Stricklin, a candidate for the open Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board position. I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is Tracy Wetherbee and my husband is Scott Wetherbee. We have a 2nd grader in Sudduth Elementary, and a 5th grader at Henderson Elementary. We have only been in Starkville for two years; however, Anne Stricklin played a huge role in why we chose public school for our children!

My husband works at Mississippi State in athletics with Anne's husband Scott Stricklin. One of the final stages in Scott's recruitment to work at MSU, was for me to have a conversation with Anne. It was during that conversation that I knew Starkville was going to be a special place for my family. Anne discussed all of the history and upcoming consolidation factors that day two years ago. I could tell that she had an overwhelming passion for the district. I knew she was actively involved in the planning groups from MSU, the SSD, and the entire community!

I have no doubt that Anne will do everything in her power to keep the consolidated district moving forward and upward in years to come. The Starkville-Oktibbeha School District is the premier school district in the Golden Triangle area. By adding a person with Anne's integrity, passion for the district, experience, and ties within the Mississippi State family as well as within the city of Starkville, this district will stay that way.

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September 4, 2015

TO:

Ben Carver, Alderman, Ward One
Lisa Wynn, Alderwoman, Ward Two
David Little, Alderman, Ward Three
Jason Walker, Alderman, Ward Four
Scott Maynard, Alderman, Ward Five
Roy A'. Perkins, Vice-Mayor, Alderman Ward Six
Henry Vaughn, Alderman Ward Seven

**Re: Letter of Support for Anne Stricklin, Starkville Oktibbeha School Board
Trustee**

It wasn't long after being elected that I realized the importance of appointing School Board Trustees. Due to my wife being employed by the Starkville School District (SSD), I followed the Ethics recommended and recused myself from all matters concerning the School Board, but I still was an active and vocal proponent of our school district.

This support and activism still continues today as I serve as Vice President of Parents for Public Schools (PPS). PPS has been, and will continue to be, an active partner with the SSD throughout the consolidation process. Our partnership has extended beyond the SSD and includes a very close working relationship with the Starkville Foundation for Public Education and the Starkville School District Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Through these partnerships, it has become clear to me who the real champions are for the SSD. These champions are paid employees, while some are volunteers. Anne Stricklin is a passionate volunteer who has been on the front line as a leader for PTO. She is passionate because she is a product of our district. She is passionate because she has lived in many other areas and experienced first hand the impact of quality education on a community's quality of life. She is passionate because she has children who will one day be products of the district she would like to lead.

I have five children who will all be products of the SSD and my wife continues to be a proud employee of SSD, obviously the well being of our district is at the heart of my household. For this reason alone, I ask that you allow Anne Stricklin to serve as the next Trustee for the Starkville Oktibbeha School District. She will be the passionate leader that we need in this time of continual and exciting change.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah Dumas
Vice-President
Parents for Public School

September 3, 2015

Starkville Board of Aldermen
City of Starkville
101 E. Lampkin St.
Starkville, MS 39759

To the Starkville Board of Alderman:

It is a true pleasure for Jason and me to write this letter of recommendation for Anne Stricklin for the open Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board position. As Starkville Public School alumni and classmates, we have known Anne for quite some time. Even at a young age, Anne demonstrated strong leadership skills, a determination to excel, and a heartfelt passion and pride for public education.

Serving in various Parent Teacher Association (PTA) /Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) positions over the past several years, Anne has done a tremendous job championing the youth of this community. Of course it all begins at Sudduth Elementary. As a past Co-President of Sudduth PTA and Henderson Ward Stewart PTO, I have had the pleasure of working on a variety of projects with Anne. As a former educator herself and as a parent, Anne brought a unique skill set to our Parent Teacher Organization that strengthened our relationships with both teachers and administrators as well as within the community. Since returning to Starkville, Anne has continued to dedicate her time and energy to the betterment of our school system: spending hours sorting books and working at Used Book Fairs and Scholastic Book Fairs; conducting PTA surveys; helping in the classrooms; and becoming more involved as PTO Co-President at Sudduth and Overstreet, and eventually President of the Executive Council of the Starkville School District (SSD) PTO.

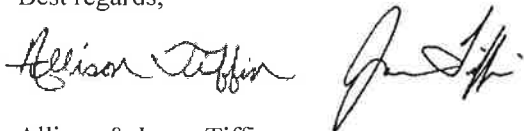
I had the privilege of serving on the PTO Executive Council under Anne's leadership. We were no strangers to "Consolidation" as this had been a topic for discussion since we were students in the Starkville school system many years ago. There could not have been a better person at the helm of our PTO to champion the long-overdue need to merge city and county. During her tenure, Anne also played a big part in nurturing the partnership between the Starkville School District and Mississippi State University.

Jason and I have served in a variety of volunteer roles that center around the youth of our community. From my involvement with SSD PTA/PTO, as mentioned above, and Cub Scout Pack Committee Chair for several years to Jason's roles of Upward Basketball Co-Director, Cub Scout Cubmaster and Boy Scout Assistant Scoutmaster we have been and continue to be fully invested and committed to the development of the youth in the Starkville community. We both know that Anne Stricklin shares that same level of investment and commitment to the Starkville area youth and these are the values we are looking for in our school board members.

Anne is a careful and innovative thinker with an eye for details and a dedication to logic, which has served her well throughout her service to the Starkville Public School District. She is a staunch supporter of public education and has a 360-degree understanding of how public education directly impacts the vitality and the health of our community – city, county, and university. Anne leads by example and inspires others to act. She is, without question, the most qualified candidate for the school board position.

We wholeheartedly recommend Anne as a member of the Starkville Oktibbeha County School District school board. In fact, we can think of few individuals whom we would recommend as highly. Please feel free to contact us if you wish to discuss this further.

Best regards,



Allison & Jason Tiffin

September 3, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

I would like to recommend Anne Howell Stricklin for the open position on the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School board.

I have known Anne for the past seven years, both on a personal level and serving together on PTO. Anne is a lady of exceptional character and leadership ability. I whole heartedly believe Anne will be the best option for the open position on the school board for the following reasons: her vested interest and support of the Starkville-Oktibbeha School District and community, her background in education, and finally her character and leadership ability.

Anne is a native of Starkville and a product of the Starkville Public School System. She has experience with the day-to-day dealings of the Starkville schools and has always been a supporter of the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District in both public and private settings. Anne is passionate about building strong relationships between the Consolidated School District, community, and Mississippi State University. Anne worked diligently during the consolidation process to ensure an easy transition and a welcoming atmosphere for all involved. She reached out to the Oktibbeha Schools and their PTO's while she was President of the Starkville Executive Council PTO. During our PTO meetings her emphasis was always on unity.

Secondly, Anne's background in education will serve her well if selected to be on the school board. She has a BA in English with a Secondary Education certification from ACU and a MA in English from Mississippi State University. Anne's practical experience as a teacher in classroom settings, past knowledge from being a student in the Starkville Public Schools, current personal experiences from having children in the school system, and her various rolls on the PTO will make her a well-rounded candidate for this position. She will be able to draw from these various types of experiences to help her make wise decisions in the best interest of the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District.

Finally, knowing Anne on a personal level as a friend and a member of the same church, I am certain that Anne has the character needed for this position. She is a lady of high moral values and strives for honesty in everything she does. Having served alongside Anne on multiple occasions at our local church, she has always proven to be a hard worker and passionate about what she does. Her reputation in the community holds the same. Anne has proven her leadership ability through serving as PTO Co-President at local schools and President of the Executive Council of Starkville School District PTO, just to give a few examples.

In conclusion, Anne Howell Stricklin has all the needed credentials to be an asset to the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board, but what sets her above all other candidates is her proven loyalty and passion for the success of the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District. I give my full support of Anne as a member of the School Board, as do many in the community.

Sincerely,
Natasha N. Thompson

Emily Manning Owen
501 Banyan Rd
Starkville, MS 39759

September 3, 2015

Members of the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

I am the mother of two students (4th and 7th graders) in the SOCSO, and I also volunteer a great deal of my time in their schools and in support of the school district. I have a very vested interest in seeing our district succeed and be a model district in the state of Mississippi. In that vein, I would like to voice my unwavering support for Anne Stricklin to fill the vacant school board position.

Anne is a Starkville native and product of our fantastic public schools, as well as being the mother of two daughters who are attending those same schools. She is a very active and involved parent, having served on the executive board of the school-level PTOs as well as the district PTO, been a loyal sports booster, and continues to be a true leader to all of us as we navigate the changes brought about due to consolidation. One of the traits I admire most about Anne as it relates to her dedication to our district is that she is "present." She volunteers tirelessly, cheers proudly at sporting events, advocates for students and teachers, engages in conversations with local stakeholders, community members, and state leaders about how to continue to grow our district and keep it on a successful path, and actively recruits new families in town to support and join our district. She's in the schools, in the meetings, and knows the people. And thus, the people know her. And they know her as someone who is fiercely passionate about our schools and the success of our students.

Aside from her passion for our district, Anne also brings to the table a background in education. She has taught on both the high school and college level and also has experience with implementing remedial practices. Because of this experience, Anne can think from the perspective of an educator.

I truly believe in Anne and her ability to be what the board needs. As an SOCSO parent as well as a resident of the school district, I can't think of anyone more qualified or suited for this school board seat.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Owen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Emily Owen



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

September 3, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Aldermen:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Anne Stricklin for the current Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District School Board position.

I have known Anne for at least 6 years. We met when she was Co-President of the Overstreet PTO. We have developed that relationship as our daughters have attended school and girl scouts together and we have served together on various school and executive PTO boards.

If I could think of one individual whom I know personally that truly has the best interest of the children in the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District in mind, it would be Anne. Having attended school in Starkville and now raising her family in Starkville she has strong ties to the community and a great devotion to the children and families here. She has been an advocate for this district since coming back to Starkville and I know that as a board member she will work tirelessly to see that our children, teachers and staff are provided for.

She has ties not only to the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District, but also to Mississippi State and the Golden Triangle area in general. Having taught in various locations, she brings new ideas and thoughts to the table in a time of growth and change in our district. She understands the many issues that are part of a school district. She is willing to listen to other ideas and offer clear insights into concerns and issues that will undoubtedly come up.

I am personally excited about the possibilities that await our school district and for the students and faculty in those schools. I have children at Armstrong and at Starkville High School and they have both been in the Starkville/ Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District since they began Kindergarten. I strongly believe in this district, but it takes strong leaders on the board to help this district continue to be a model for others in the state and nationally. I believe that Anne Stricklin is the person needed to assist the current board as they work to accomplish the great things that are in our future.

Sincerely,

Kimberly W. Walters

Mathematics Instructor
2013 John Grisham Master Teacher

September 1, 2015

To: Board of Alderman, City of Starkville

I am pleased to support the nomination of Anne Stricklin for membership on the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board. I do so with enthusiasm and a sincere belief that she would add immeasurably to that body. Why do I say this? I say this for several reasons:

1. She has been an active supporter of the public schools from the first moment she and her family moved to Starkville. She has not been a cheerleader from the sideline but has taken an active and working role in that support. She has served in leadership positions in Starkville PTO for many years as an example. Her involvement has been extensive in support of the public schools.
2. She is a professional educator by training and has taught in a number of schools in other states where her husband was employed. She views the school system as both a parent and as an educator. She is highly intelligent, well informed and has good judgement.
3. She is a person of impeccable character and unquestionable honesty. She is also very active in her church which is the source of her faith and character.
4. She has an additional positive strength in that her husband has a high profile position with the university that gives her name recognition as she works and fights for public education in our city and county.

I hope I have made myself clear and that is, I am high on Ann Stricklin for Board membership. I have also written a letter of support for another individual who is seeking board membership. Both of these people would make excellent board members. I wish you could appoint both.

Most sincerely

Roy H. Ruby
Former member Starkville School Board
Vice President Emeritus for Student Affairs, MSU
Dean Emeritus, College of Education, MSU
Former Interim President, MSU

September 1, 2015

To the Starkville Board of Alderman:

Please accept this letter of support for Anne Howell Stricklin to serve as a member of the board for the Starkville-Oktibbeha County School District. This is such an important body not only for our schools, but for our partnership with Mississippi State, and our community. Anne will bring passion, integrity, and leadership to the board.

We currently have four children in the public school system. Two at Starkville High School, one at Armstrong Middle School, and one at Sudduth Elementary School. While we may not understand all the inner workings on the board, we do understand the products of the decisions made and have been pleased with our childrens' education. Because of her involvement with our school system, and other state systems, she has a deep understanding of how things work and the implications of her decisions as part of the board.

One of Anne's greatest strengths is to fight for what she believes is right. We had the pleasure of working with Anne in 2013 to save one of our youth programs at our church. Because of poor leadership, this program had become a little stale and a few in the congregation were calling for it to end. Anne helped lead our team to revamp the program ensuring changes were made that were in the best interests of the children and the parents. Since that time, the participation has grown and it serves the original purpose of offering age appropriate lessons and activities for the children. This is a perfect example of how Anne can take a difficult situation and turn it into a positive, while fighting for what she believes is right.

Anne also has a gift of seeing issues from all sides and working with others to determine what's best for the organization. This is critical as a school board member. Every issue is complex and has pros and cons. Sometimes leaders make decisions because of what's best for them and not necessarily best for the organization. We know Anne can make the tough decisions that are best for our public schools, and all they serve going forward.

Thank you for your consideration of Anne Howell Stricklin as a member of the SOCSO board. Her experience with our schools' PTO and Executive Council gives Anne insight into what our students, teachers, and parents need. Her experience as a teacher outside the district affords her opportunities in curricula development, effective teaching strategies, and a look into the kinds of issues and decisions she will need to consider. As a representative and advocate for the recent consolidation, Anne was able to meet with our state legislators to discuss the consolidation and the need for funding. The bottom line is Anne has the experience, the leadership, and the values that would make a great addition to the board. Should you have any questions about Anne that we can answer, feel free to contact us via phone, 662.323.1145 or via email, easleydj@netscape.net.

Sincerely,

Darrell and Jennifer Easley