One incumbent running for reelection to Harford County school board

By Shaela Foster

The deadline to file for candidacy for the Harford County Board of Education closed Tuesday, and only one incumbent filed to retain her seat, making way for a new set of school leaders in the county.

The Harford school board consists of six elected members and three members appointed by the county executive. Elected members represent different areas of the county, split up into districts A through F. All elected seats are nonpartisan.

Although all board members except District C's Carol Mueller were eligible for reelection, District D representative Melissa Hahn is the lone board member who chose to file.

District A

Incumbent Denise Perry's seat will be up for grabs. Three candidates, Donna Blasdell, Shernice Mundell and Dani Paez, are battling to represent the Edgewood and Joppatowne area on the board.

Mundell, 48, of Edgewood, is an Air Force veteran and a financial clearance specialist with Johns Hopkins Health Systems.

Her campaign focuses on a culturally responsive and inclusive curriculum, student discipline reform, restorative and preventive practices, and mental health and student support services.

Paez, 29, also of Edgewood, is a first-generation American. She envisions a school system that uplifts every student, supports educators and serves families through fairness, transparency and opportunity.

Her campaign priorities include ending book bans and protecting educators and librarians, providing free breakfast and lunch for every student, and strengthening transparency.

Blasdell did not respond to a request for campaign information.

District B

The board's current vice president, Wade Sewell, is not running again. Sewell was chosen as vice president again at a meeting two weeks ago, marking his second time serving in the role.

Three candidates have filed to run for District B, which includes Fallston and some of Bel Air: Dominic Heath, Christian Licier and Keri Geibler.

Heath, 41, of Fallston, said he's running to give back to his community. He is a survivor of childhood leukemia and currently works in supply chain management in the pharmaceutical industry. He said he will prioritize school safety, transparency and district performance at the state level.