

# D12<sup>141</sup> board fills seat

By Caroline Kipp

Staff Writer

After a unanimous vote May 20, the Adams 12 school board will have a new member.

After reviewing applications and interviewing all five prospects, the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education voted 4-0 to appoint Thornton business owner and parent Heidi Williams to the board to represent district No. 4.

"We were fortunate to have many great candidates," said board president Cindy Dascher. "It was a really difficult decision."

The volunteer position, which represents the southeast portion of the district, opened in February when Bill Jones resigned. He served nearly 12 years on the board, and his final term would have been completed in November. The board declared the vacant seat during a meeting March 18 and announced it was accepting applications.

Williams, who owns A Scrub Stop in Thornton, said she was already planning on running for Jones' open seat this November after talking with board member Mark Clark. She said she was surprised to have the seat open sooner, and though her third child will be born this week, she still wanted to pursue the seat.

"I always want to be part of the solution," she said. "I think it's a good challenge for me."

Williams and her husband Toby have lived in Thornton for two years, and her business has been open for five years. She grew up in Colorado and graduated from Brighton High School. She and Toby have both been involved in DECA and Boy Scouts.

She has one son, Michael Silva, at Legacy High School. She also has 3-year-old daughter, Chloe.

Clark, who knows Williams and her husband through Boy

Scouts, said he approached Williams about the seat last year, knowing Jones was term-limited and the seat would be open. Williams started attending the board's bi-monthly meetings last November to see if it was something she wanted to pursue, and it was.

"I really enjoyed the meetings," she said. "I learned a lot by going."

Clark said the fact Williams attended meetings regularly for the past six months stood out to him.

"It's great a lot of people wanted to get involved," said Clark, who was the only person to run for his seat two years ago. "Knowing her going in, I know what kind of character she portrays, how she runs her company and her family. I think when it came down to it she was more qualified. I just think she's going to bring a great perspective to the board."

Williams said she first became interested in public office five years ago when she began the process to open her shop. She said it was difficult to wade through the process of zoning a building and getting permits, but Noel Busck, who was mayor of Thornton at the time, helped her get through it. She said it made her think she wanted to be in a position to help people, as Busck helped her.

As a board member, Williams said she hopes to help parents navigate the system.

"I have always felt a little lost as a parent," Williams said, reflecting on times when she wanted to address issues like communication at a school, but wasn't sure how.

She said she wants to be an advocate for other parents, who may not know their way through a school system.

As a business owner, Williams said she plans to help further the district's efforts to give students a 21st century education.

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She also wants to help parents get access to resources the district offers online, knowing some parents may not have the Internet or other technology resources at home.

Other than those goals, Williams said, "I did not go in with an agenda, just as a parent and business owner who was interested."

Williams will serve until November, when her seat will be up for election as would have been the case for Jones, who

said he resigned because he did not like the direction the school district was headed. Since she initially thought she would run in November, Williams said she intends to run to keep her seat.

"I think it's a good challenge for me," Williams said. "I feel like I'll learn a lot on the board."

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