

# Yuma County school superintendent hopes to fill 2 board seats

- By Blake Herzog, @BlakeHerzog
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Yuma County Schools Superintendent Tom Tyree is looking to fill two school district governing board seats, after the Nov. 6 election failed to produce enough winners to fill the number of chairs available.

Tyree is accepting letters of interest from prospective board members through 5 p.m. Dec. 3, and is seeking applicants from the Somerton Elementary School District and the Southwest Technical Education District of Yuma (STEDY).

“Those people who are applying should indicate why they would like to serve and what their qualifications are,” Tyree said. “The letter should also include their address, and how long they’ve lived at that address, and in that district.”

Although STEDY, a career technical education district, covers the entire county, applicants for that seat must live in the Yuma Union High School District. Its five-member board is set up to have two representatives from each of the two high school districts and one at-large member.

State law requires all school board members to be registered voters and to have lived within the district for at least a year. They also cannot be employed by or married to an employee of the district.

Board terms usually last four years, but these appointees will serve for two years, through the next general election in 2020, when the seat will go on the ballot again.

Once the application deadline passes, letters will be reviewed, interviews with top candidates scheduled, and Tyree hopes to make a decision by the end of that week, Nov. 30.

We’re looking for someone who has some time to put into the board, it takes some preparation time, and that’s for people to serve that time and be able to attend the meetings, regularly,” he said.

“That’s part of what it takes to be an effective board member and we’re looking for someone with the ability to work with others, in a board setting. And someone who’s committed to providing a quality education for the children of these districts.” he added.

Tyree said most school boards have one regular meeting a month, but many also hold work sessions or special meetings during the course of the month.

Somerton Elementary's regular meetings are usually held 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, while STEDY's are the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Letters of interest for either board position can be emailed to [agarcia@apscc.org](mailto:agarcia@apscc.org), or mailed or dropped off at the Yuma County Superintendent of Schools office, 210 S. 1st Ave., Yuma, AZ, 85364. Anyone with questions can call the office at (928) 373-1006.