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OPINION



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Agle on School Board is asset to Oak Ridge

To the Editor:

I wish to announce and explain my support for Angi Agle's campaign for the school board.

This year is a critical year for Oak Ridge. We're seeing a lot of discussion on the future of the town, and it's exciting to see people become involved who may not have been involved previously. There are several new voices in the local discussions, and several new people looking to come to the aid of the town in elective offices.

This is great. It's a sign that people care about the town, and a sign that things are going to get better.

For the second year in a row there has been a much-publicized confrontation of sorts between the Oak Ridge City Council, who desires a flat tax rate with adherence to a town strategic plan that was adopted a few years ago, and the Oak Ridge School Board, who has maintained that with the current funding, and the current expenses, the quality of education in the town is threatened.

This has resulted in a sort of us vs. them mentality, which helps nothing. Unfortunately, the last resort for the school system to get the funding necessary is the city budget, which promotes this kind of thinking.

Angi, however, has worked very hard to get funding from the state, to the extent that she has become one of the few experts in understanding (and explaining) the state's rather convoluted BEP funding method.

She has frequently gone up to Nashville to try to ensure fair and equal funding for school systems, funding that wouldn't favor large or small school systems, and funding that would allow towns like Oak Ridge, who obviously value education, assistance in continuing it as a priority. She is known and recognized as an accomplished civil servant, both in Nashville and in Oak Ridge.

When several friends and I started the ACES campaign last year to raise recognition of the plight of Oak Ridge Schools, it was Angi who was always available with facts and documentation to back up the facts. She is truly an asset to this town, and for that reason it is imperative that she be re-elected, to help maintain the excellence of the school system.

Jacob Kilpatrick

Oak Ridge



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