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EDUCATION

Akron Public Schools board elects new leadership in split votes



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The Akron Public Schools board picked new leadership Monday night, selecting Carla Jackson as its new president and Bruce Alexander as vice president in split votes after a contentious battle for the top position.

As expected, board member Barbara Sykes also threw her hat in the ring for president and gave a speech ahead of the roll call accusing Jackson of missing a significant number of meetings and votes over the last year.

Jackson pushed back, saying she had a family illness and that she showed up and did her job.

"We all have life that happens," she said. "I'm not derelict in duties. I show up. And I meet my responsibilities."

Rene Molenaur also was nominated for vice president of the board.

The board honored outgoing president Diana Autry for her work over the last year, presenting her with a proclamation and a gavel.

"Anyone who knows me knows it's all about children," Autry said in brief remarks.

This story will be updated.

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