

Toledo mayoral candidates speak before MVCD students

10/20/2015

BLADE STAFF



Mayoral candidates from left: Sandy Spang, Mike Bell, Carty Finkbeiner, Sandra Drabik Collins, and Ernie Davis, campaign manager for Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, answer questions from Maumee Valley Country Day School students during a mayoral forum hosted and organized by Current Local and International Issues Club.

Mayoral candidates squared off early today at another in a string of forums, but this time it was before an audience that won't have a say in the election.

Maumee Valley Country Day School hosted four of seven candidates: former mayors Mike Bell and Carty Finkbeiner, city councilman Sandy Spang, and Sandy Drabik Collins, the widow of Mayor D. Michael Collins, who died Feb. 6.

Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson sent Ernie Davis, her campaign manager, in her stead. Former city councilman Mike Ferner and evangelist Opal Covey were not in attendance.

The event was organized by student group the Current Local and International Issues Club, and four students asked questions. Topics included candidate plans for the redevelopment of the former Southwyck Mall site, how candidates would revitalize Toledo's downtown, and plans for how they would reduce gun violence in the city.

Poom Pipatjarasgit, one of the student questioners, said the forum wasn't meant to be a debate but was to expose students to current issues in the city.

Gary Boehm, head of school, said after the forum that the idea was initially broached by Mr. Finkbeiner, who is a graduated of Maumee Valley.

— *Nolan Rosenkrans*