



TO: Secretary, Board of School Directors

FROM: Stuart Knade, Interim Executive Director

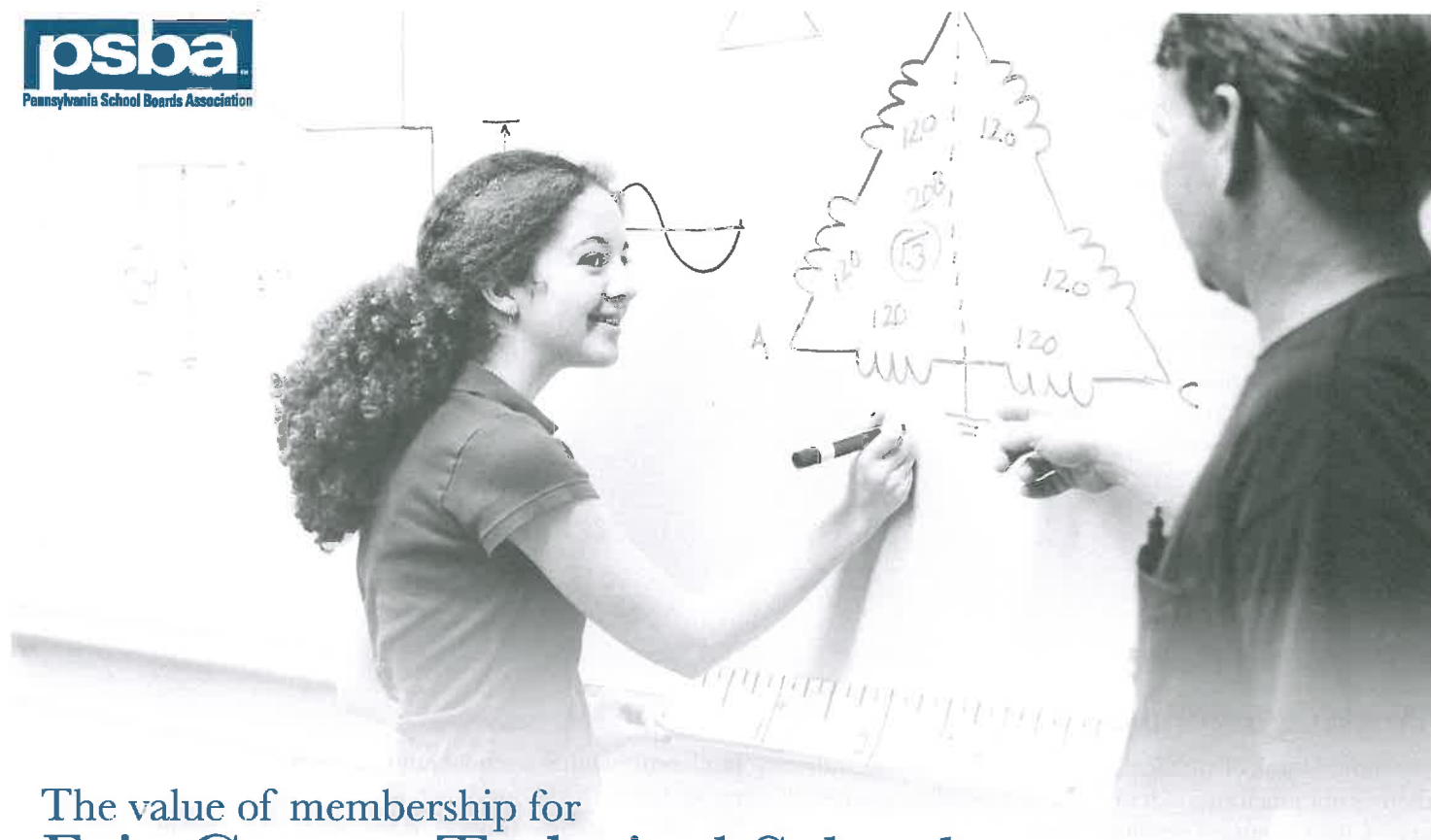
SUBJECT: Value of PSBA membership

DATE: March 2013

Thank you for your continued support of PSBA, the association created 118 years ago to serve school directors across the state. What we offer our members today looks vastly different than when we first started, but the principle is the same – we are working for you.

Enclosed is information that provides details on just how hard we work for our member school entities and public education every day. You will find a customized sheet that gives specific ways PSBA has helped your school entity in the past year. There is a sheet personalized for each of your individual board members. As board secretary, we ask you to share this piece with your school board directors and superintendent.

Times are challenging for public education – Budgets are getting tighter; the economy continues its lackluster growth; and outside forces continue their attack on our successes. School entities joining together through membership in PSBA send a strong message to policymakers in Harrisburg. We look forward to serving you again in 2013-14.



The value of membership for Erie County Technical School

Working for you, Marcia Jones!

Membership in PSBA gives Erie County Technical School access to services and resources beyond what you pay in dues. It is like hiring an additional 150 staff. For example, in 2012...

- PSBA lobbyists played an integral role in the defeat of tuition voucher and charter school legislation that would have adversely affected Pennsylvania's school entities.
- PSBA lobbyists spent more than 3,200 hours in the halls of the Capitol advocating on your behalf. It typically costs \$3,500-5,000 a month to hire a lobbying firm.
- PSBA Legal Services challenged the approach used by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in calculating charter school AYP. Due to these efforts, the calculation formula was overturned meaning traditional charter school progress is measured consistently.
- PSBA Legal Services filed six amicus briefs on behalf of member school entities. An average hourly attorney fee is \$180.
- PSBA held several complimentary member calls to update you on topics such as the state budget, EITC 2.0 and a series of calls regarding pension funding.
- PSBA officers, staff and members testified before various legislative committees to make sure your voice was heard by policymakers.
- PSBA held the first annual Student Celebration Showcase that highlighted 10 talented performing arts groups and individuals from around the state. This showcase was a platform for performing arts in public education to shine and Stand Up for Public Education!
- This year, Erie County Technical School contacted PSBA 10 times for service, advice, information or a question. That person may have been a board member, chief school administrator, board secretary, business manager, principal, solicitor or other administrator. Even though "school board" is in our name, the association really serves your entire educational leadership.
- PSBA introduced its first student poster and essay contest, asking students to answer the question, "what does public education mean to me?" Your students responded by submitting 879 essays and 1,203 posters.
- To acknowledge the time restraints of school leaders, PSBA created a Live Learning Center that records and provides school leaders the ability to obtain PSBA training at a time and place that is convenient for you.

Working with you!

This year, Erie County Technical School took advantage of the following products, services or programs through PSBA. Many are part of your membership dues while others are offered at deep member discounts.

Insurance - Excess Liability

Insurance - Legal Liability for School Professionals
(School Leader)

Insurance - Long Term Disability

Insurance - Property

Insurance - Workers' Compensation

Member Inquiry Support : 8 - Inquiries

Policy Maintenance Program

Policy News Network NewsLetter

Policy on the WEB

Risk Management training via webconference : 1 -
Conference

Working together!

We should think of public education as a brick wall with each brick representing a school entity in Pennsylvania. Individually, there is not much strength or form, but building upon each other we have a firm foundation for a promising future. That's just one of the benefits of coming together in association membership. Here are some ways we have and will be working together with you...

- PSBA launched a new educational program, the Solutions Conference. This conference was designed to place school decision leaders in touch with industry experts that have solutions to assist you in running your entity more efficiently and economically.
- The combined voices of our membership make PSBA's advocacy efforts in the Capitol more powerful. Our members have a unique position of being able to talk to legislators as elected official to elected official. As unpaid volunteers, you have no monetary incentive, just the best interest of students and your community.
- Through the efforts of the Governance Review Committee, a Delegate Assembly will replace PSBA's current Legislative Policy Council. Changes will also be implemented to voting structure for PSBA officers. These changes will strengthen collaboration and encourage participation by your school entity.

We thank you for your membership and look forward to working for you, working with you and working together in the future.

Sincerely,



Stuart Knade
PSBA Interim Executive Director

