



Frequently asked questions

(The answers below are drawn primarily from PSBA Bylaws and PSBA Policy 108 - Procedures And Campaign Policy For Election Of Officers and At-Large Representatives)

- **How many affirmative votes are needed to select a candidate?**
A candidate must receive a simple majority of votes of a quorum of the entity's governing board in order for an entity's vote to be cast for that candidate.
- **What happens if a school board is deadlocked and cannot select one candidate for a particular office?**
If the board is unable to produce a majority vote for a candidate, no vote is cast by the entity for that elected position.
- **Does the school board need to vote at a public meeting to elect PSBA officers?**
Yes. PSBA Policy 108 specifies that votes of an entity's board are to be cast at a public meeting.
- **Is a roll call vote needed?**
A roll call vote is not required. However, that procedure may be used if it appears necessary in order to accurately determine the outcome of a vote that is not unanimous.
- **Are governing boards of intermediate units, career and technical centers and community colleges also entitled to cast votes in PSBA elections?**
Yes. The boards of all PSBA member entities whose current-year membership dues are paid in full are eligible to cast that entity's votes in PSBA elections. For purposes of the PSBA election process, the joint operating committee of a career and technical center is regarded as that entity's governing board.
- **If I am also on the IU board or CTC JOC, does that mean I am able to participate in the voting of each entity?**
Yes.
- **May a board abstain from voting on a particular office?**
There is no general rule that requires a vote to be cast for every office on a ballot, so as a practical matter abstention is allowed, but of course not encouraged.
- **Our board secretary never received an email from Simply Voting with the log in password to the online ballot.**
*This email will not arrive until voting opens on Aug. 24. Be sure your firewall security is allowing the email vote@simplyvoting.com to get through. Additionally, you can notify your IT staff that email blasts from Simply Voting will originate from the IP address: 198.21.6.73 or 184.173.105.83. Ask them to add these to your firewall safe lists. **PLEASE NOTE:** Only member entities in good standing may vote. If your dues have not arrived by Aug. 24, you will not receive the email with the link to the ballot. Passwords will be released once we receive dues for 2018-19.*

Why do some candidates have an asterisk next to their name on the ballot?

The Leadership Development Committee may, by majority vote, determine that one or more candidates for any elected position will be designated on the ballot as a candidate the Leadership Development Committee considers to be highly qualified. (PSBA Bylaws, Section 6 C – Nominations)

Below is an excerpt from PSBA Policy 108 (as amended August 13, 2015), addressing how votes are cast by member entity boards.

J. Voting procedures.

1. *Voting procedures. Voting and registering of votes shall take place during a period commencing eight (8) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Delegate Assembly and ending two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Delegate Assembly, unless the PSBA Governing Board declares a shorter voting period. Specific dates for the first and last day of voting shall be widely publicized to the membership.*
2. *Sufficiently prior to the voting window, printed slates of candidates, along with instructions for voting, shall be distributed to the board secretary of the Governing Board of each member entity eligible to cast votes. For purposes of the PSBA election process and this policy, a Joint Operating Committee is regarded as that entity's Governing Board.*
3. *Casting of votes by member entities.*
 - a. *Each member entity whose current year PSBA dues have been paid in full shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each elected position presented for election. An entity may cast a vote only for an at-large position for the section of the state to which it is assigned.*
 - b. *The vote of the entity for each position shall be determined by simple majority vote of the entity's Governing Board (majority of a quorum), cast at a public meeting of the Board.*
 - c. *A candidate must receive a majority of votes of a quorum of the entity's Governing Board present and voting in order for an entity's vote to be cast for that candidate. A plurality of votes by an entity's Governing Board for any candidate is not sufficient. In the event that no candidate for a position receives at least a majority of votes of the quorum present and voting, a run-off shall be conducted between the two (2) candidates previously receiving the most votes. If the Board is unable to produce a majority vote for a candidate, no vote is cast by the entity for that elected position.*
 - d. *The secretary of each entity's Board shall record the Board's vote as to each elected position on the ballot.*
 - e. *The selections of each member entity's Board for the elected positions on the ballot cast for that entity shall be registered with the PSBA Credentials Committee by the secretary of each entity's Board.*



PSBA Slate of Candidates for 2018

This slate is provided for informational purposes only. All voting takes place online. Each member school entity's board secretary has received additional information on the voting procedures. Visit www.psba.org/elections for more details on each candidate, including photos and videos.

* The Leadership Development Committee may, by majority vote, determine that one or more candidates for any elected position will be designated on the ballot as a candidate the Leadership Development Committee considers to be highly qualified. (PSBA Bylaws, Section 5 C – Nominations). *Please note, this designation does not apply to individuals running for PSBA Insurance Trust positions.*

President Elect (one-year term)

- Eric Wolfgang*, Central York SD (York Co.)

Biography/Statement

My name is Eric Wolfgang and I wish to become the next President-Elect of this fine organization. I have been a member of the Central York School District, located just outside of York City, for the past 19 years and Board President for 11 of those years. I grew up in York City, graduated from the York County School of Technology and went on to receive my degree from Penn State. I have been married to my wife, Sherrie for 38 years and I have 2 grown children and three grandchildren. I have been very involved in PSBA over the years, having attained Master School Board member status as well as PSBA Fellow. I am in my second year on the PSBA Governing Board serving as vice-President and Chair of the platform Committee.

My vision for PSBA is to continue to build upon the organizational excellence for which this organization has come to be known. It is important to provide strategic planning for future needs of the organization as well as established direction so that future leaders have a clear roadmap for PSBA. We have to continue to be at the forefront of the ever changing public educational landscape in order to serve all our member's needs as well as all the students we represent. PSBA must expand our legislative advocacy efforts in order to effect necessary change which will benefit all our members. We have to be active partners when legislation is being considered as well as write legislation and find willing partners in the General Assembly to sponsor that legislation. We need increased involvement by more members of our organization, which will serve to strengthen the overall organization.

The challenge for the Governing Board is to listen intently to and consider all the various viewpoints of our membership while working to build consensus. With input from the Executive Director, we must continue to look toward the future to maintain an organization which is responsive to the member's needs, while attempting to anticipate what challenges will be forthcoming to public education. Public education is a cornerstone of our democracy and therefore should never be looked at simply from a dollars and cents perspective, but rather from the standpoint of a moral and ethical obligation to the future citizens of our commonwealth.

We must demand a level playing field whereby all educational providers work under the same rules and regulations. The traditional public education setting needs to evolve using 21st century technologies in order to enhance and improve the individual education of every student. Public education must change in order to adequately teach and prepare our students for their futures, ensuring the success of our great nation.

Thank you for your consideration of me to serve you as the next President-Elect, and helping to chart the course for PSBA into the future. I promise to fulfill this position to the best of my ability, to help maintain the excellence of PSBA.



Vice President (one-year term)

- Art Levinowitz*, Upper Dublin SD (Montgomery Co.)

Biography/Statement

I have been involved in education my entire professional life. I was a teacher for 8 years, employed as an administrator for over 25 years for the New Jersey State Department of Education, and I have served on my local school board for 19 years. For the past 5 years I have been the President of the Board of the School Directors for the School District of Upper Dublin. Also, for the past 9 years I served as the President of the Joint Operating Committee for the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology; my area career and technology school. I have experience serving PSBA as both a regional director and the section 8 advisor. During the 2017 school year I participated and completed the Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP). This year long program, sponsored by the Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC), focuses on Policy, Leadership, and Networking. I retired and now have more time to pursue a PSBA leadership role.

I strongly agree with the vision established years ago by PSBA; to stand for strong school boards, strong public schools and a strong Pennsylvania. PSBA puts school directors first by providing them the tools to be successful. In February PSBA updated its professional development program by designing and offering 42 On-line learning courses free to all-access members. In May, I completed all courses earning the Certificate in Board Governance and the associated seven badges. By providing the appropriate resources, including on-line courses, professional development, workshops and conferences, we can build strong school boards throughout the Commonwealth. However, unless our boards take advantage of what is available we are failing our students and communities. PSBA has the responsibility to empower school board members to succeed by providing vital tools, superior training and powerful advocacy.

In a recent PSBA survey the three greatest challenges for PSBA and public education were budget pressures, implementation of The Every Student Succeeds Act, and school construction/maintenance. Pension costs, charter school payments, and special education costs were identified as the top budget pressures. In addition, we face significant challenges addressing the mental health issues of our students, school safety and security, creating greater flexibility in the graduation requirements, Education Savings Accounts (ESA) vouchers, and Property Tax Reform. How do we best address these challenges? All those who support public education, including board members, must work together to advocate for solutions. An example is the process PSBA used to prepare the Commonwealth Education Blueprint. By bringing together education stakeholders from across the commonwealth, real change, support and progress can occur. By working with organizations such as PA PTO, PASA, PASBO, PACTA, PAIU, PA Principals Association, PIAA, and Communities in School we can work together to make a real difference in the lives of all public school children.

I look forward to serving as your next Vice President. I will be a strong advocate for public education and for all school boards across the Commonwealth.

Eastern At Large (three-year term) Sections 4 & 8

- Maura Buri* Upper Merion Area SD (Montgomery Co.)

Biography/Statement

Thank you for taking the time to learn about me. My name is Maura Buri and I have three incredible children. I work in the accounting center of a National Property Management Company. Over the years I have been involved in every aspect of my school district from the pre-school level through high school. After a friend had recommended I run for school board, I took time to think about it and decided to pursue the position. I saw a chance to take part in changing and advocating education for the future of all students and communities. I have been a very active member of my local district, Upper Merion Area School District, as well as the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the past 7 years along with attending many PSBA seminars, roundtables and advocacy days.

A couple goals of mine are to connect with those interested in running for school board ahead of time and providing them with what is truly entailed and expected, as well as further engagement of newly elected directors by a mentoring program. Next I would like to create a committee of graduates to share their experiences and what would have made them more prepared for further education or the workforce. The students of today are our advocates for tomorrow, they need to continually be made aware of problems in public education and be part of the solution.



PSBA and public education are facing many challenges ahead. Our number one resource to address these issues is having involvement from directors from all over the state coming together and getting correct information out to communities as well as building partnerships with corporations to promote public education.

Thank you for taking the time to watch and listen to all of the candidates. This is truly a passion of mine and I look forward to the opportunity to serve as Eastern - At-Large Representative.

Sectional Advisors

Section 2

- Thomas Kerek* Kane Area SD (McKean Co.)

Biography/Statement

Greetings from the northern part of the Pennsylvania Wilds: to the sprawling city of State College.

I am Major Thomas Kerek (Ret.) a 22 year veteran of the Pennsylvania National Guard and 28 year retired Federal Government Employee. I am currently seeking the Sectional 2 Advisor position within the Pennsylvania School Board Association. Four plus years ago, I was selected to fill a vacant position on the Kane Area School Board and then was elected to serve by the citizens of Kane. Since then, I have been actively involved with Intermediate Unit 9 and the various committees of the Pennsylvania School Board Association. I have served on the Leadership Development and Legislative Platform Committees. I am currently serving on the Educational Political Action Committee, the By-Laws Committee and as the Sectional 2 Advisor. I have also served as the past Coordinating Committee Director for Region 4. Currently, I also serve on the Pennsylvania School Board Association governing board.

My short term vision is to actively engage with the school directors within the region to encourage more participation so that we can achieve a united effort to address educational issues impacting our local communities. I would also like to encourage school directors to adopt and implement the Pennsylvania School Board Association's "Principles for Governance and Leadership". I would like to attend the different IU's within the Region so that a representative of each school district can get to know me and we can interact and engage on the issues that affect our school districts within our region. I also would like to work on active participation in our town hall meetings that is sponsored by Pennsylvania School Board Association.

In my video, I discuss some of the challenges I see facing the state of public education. However, the important long term challenges that I see affecting the school districts within our region involve the active participation with our legislative representatives, addressing "for profit cyber schools" and engaging in conversations that will explore resolution to the unfunded pension liability that affects the retirement situation within the state.

Thank you for your time and I hope that I will earn your vote.

I serve as a school director in the Kane Area SD (McKean Co.). I am also the Intermediate Unit 9 representative for the district. I am passionate about community involvement, especially in the area of education and nonprofit fundraising. I served 10 years as the secretary/treasurer for the Allegheny Highlands Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association) to promote the scholastic shooting sports within the country. I hold a bachelor's degree in history from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I also matriculated in secondary education at Mansfield University prior to receiving a position with the United States Government. My hobbies include: gardening, model trains, airplanes and rocketry. I also enjoy woodworking, backpacking, muzzle-loading hunting and antiquing with my wife Linda. We are currently restoring an 1895 Victorian Country home to period condition.

Section 4

- Dr. Gary Smedley* Carbondale Area SD (Lackawanna Co.)

Biography/Statement

Greetings!

My name is Gary Michael Smedley, and I'm running for the Section 4 Advisor Position for the Northeast. I'm currently the President of the Carbondale Area School Board in Lackawanna County and former PSBA Region 7 Director. I am no stranger to PSBA elections, as I appeared on the ballot in several previous elections. I am a 2005 graduate of my district, and I received my Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the University of the Sciences in



Philadelphia. I am currently employed as a pharmacist for Figliomeni Drug Store, a local, independently owned pharmacy in Carbondale. I have served on my board since 2007, winning a seat while still attending college. I served as Vice President of the Board for 3 years, before becoming elected President in May 2011, a position I have held since. I am extremely active in my community; I have been a member of the Andrew Mitchell Hose Company #1 since 2004 and a member of the Lackawanna County Pharmacy Association since 2011. I currently serve as the President for the Lackawanna County Stadium Authority, home of the AAA affiliate of the New York Yankees. I'm also on the Board of Directors of Dream2Career, which strives to match students to the jobs and career paths that they will flourish in.

Section 4 is a wide and diverse area; the section spans nine counties and includes districts of all types: large, small, urban, suburban, and rural. While there are a lot of differences between all of the districts, there are many common issues that plague all of our school boards. As many of you have probably learned by now, our hands are tied in many of these matters thanks to policies and mandates enacted by our state legislature in Harrisburg. Even if you are a newcomer to your local board, I'm sure that by now you have come to realize that we need reform in our education system and we need it now. As your Sectional Advisor, I will work with the PSBA leadership team to help rally and unite all of the districts across the state to force their local representatives to go to Harrisburg and fix these longstanding issues that have loomed over the horizon of public education in our great Commonwealth for far too long. We need the "Do Nothing Legislature" in Harrisburg to finally wake up and realize that public education funding in the state is at a breaking point. We must force them to enact a fair funding solution for the students, teachers, and taxpayers that we represent; because a child's educational opportunity shouldn't be determined solely by the zip code in which they live. That is why as your Sectional Advisor, I look forward to talking with all of you to hear your concerns and suggestions so that the leadership team at PSBA can craft legislation that will address these funding imbalances once and for all. The time has come for change; and I look forward to leading the charge.

Section 6 Advisor

- Dan Hill* Westmont Hilltop SD (Cambria Co.)

Biography/Statement

My name is Dan Hill. I am currently the President of the Board of Education at the Westmont Hilltop School District, and I am excited to seek your vote to be next year's section 6 advisor for the PSBA. I am writing today to explain to you a little bit about who I am, and why I would like to serve the PSBA.

I was born and raised in the Johnstown area, and was proud to return to my hometown in 2007 after spending time in Harrisburg to attend law school, and Pittsburgh to begin my legal career. I practice family law, and I joined my current law firm as a partner in 2010. My career has been spent working with families and their children. Accordingly, education became an important part of my professional life very quickly; and then a part of my personal life when my two children were born not long after my return to Johnstown. My inspiration to become more involved in education was in large part thanks to my wife, who is an extraordinarily dedicated elementary teacher.

I wish to serve as a section advisor for the PSBA because I have experienced first-hand the positive impact that the PSBA's guiding principles can have on a community. I am a school board director because I believe the biggest way to positively impact a community is through our local schools. My city has been disproportionately affected by loss of economic opportunity and the opioid crisis. Fortunately, despite these challenges, many of our region's local schools have not only persevered but invested in improving infrastructure and increasing educational programming opportunities for our children. This has resulted in providing safe havens of opportunity for our local youth that I am convinced will continue to improve the entire region over time.

By becoming a section advisor, I believe I can help other local school boards learn to govern more effectively. I have learned that when school directors act effectively as a team, school administrators can work miracles with limited resources; something that is critical in the current climate of education funding. Serving as a section advisor would provide me the honor of helping to spread this message to many other communities, hopefully creating experiences similar to my own with the PSBA.

Section 8

- Amy Goldman* Radnor Township SD (Delaware Co.)

Biography/Statement

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to present myself as a candidate for the two-year position of PSBA Sectional Advisor for Section 8, starting in 2019. Among the responsibilities of Sectional Advisors is to serve as an additional channel of communication between the designated PSBA liaisons on each school board in the Section and PSBA regarding local and statewide education issues. I am eager to be that resource and foster greater engagement.

Since becoming a parent of school aged children, I have become a dedicated advocate for the highest-quality educational experiences possible for each and every child. I don't believe there is a greater gift that society can give its children than an outstanding education. I have a family legacy of being educated in Pennsylvania's public schools and one of my two children recently graduated from one as well. With approximately 1.7 million Pennsylvania children currently enrolled in public schools, I hope their experiences will be as fulfilling as ours have been. But this is not something we can take for granted. Informed, thoughtful and consistent advocacy is essential.

My passion for education bloomed from being a very active parent volunteer in my children's various educational settings over the past 17 years. That volunteer involvement included many parent organization and school leadership roles culminating in 2015 with my election to the Radnor Township School Board. I am honored to have served for the past three years as co-chair of our board's Government Relations/Communications Committee as well as being the current Chair of our board's Policy Committee. While the experiences I have had as a member of Radnor's board have been educational and rewarding in and of themselves, I have also been invested in learning even more about the workings of public education outside of Radnor. That learning has come from attending multiple PSBA advocacy events and education forums of all kinds across Pennsylvania. Most recently I completed the PA Educational Policy Leadership Center's Fellowship Program. I am a firm believer in "it takes a village" to best educate children, and that no one school entity or body of government has a lock on best practices and ideas, nor can we afford to operate in silo in this global age. I also believe it is the charge of all educational professionals and elected officials to consistently and collaboratively assess our students' educational needs, our educator and educational system effectiveness, and any and all novel educational opportunities from our respective perches. From those assessments come critical advocacy opportunities and responsibilities.

If elected, it will be an additional honor to get to know, support and learn from the rest of the PSBA Section 8 public school community, my PSBA colleagues, and many other PA education officials to protect and strengthen public education. Together we can contribute to PSBA initiatives already in place and work to create new ones as needed for the sake of our students.



PSBA Insurance Trust

Member school entities also are asked to vote for open trustee positions on the PSBA Insurance Trust board. There are currently five seats open and five candidates. A school entity can vote for up to five individuals.

Trustee (term ends Dec. 31, 2021)

- William S. LaCoff (Owen J. Roberts SD), PSBA Past President

Biography/Statement

LaCoff was first elected to the school board of Owen J. Roberts SD (Chester Co.) in 1995. Prior to retirement, he was employed in various aspects of the real estate industry; as a mortgage broker, an agent and a property manager. He previously served as president of PSBA in 2007 and 2015 and served as a PSBA liaison and member of the Federal Relations Network. Additionally, he has experience as a region leader, president of the Insurance Trust and a trustee of the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund. In addition to being a trustee of PSBAIT, he holds positions on the boards of EdPAC and PaPEF. He is a former member of the Chester County School Boards Legislative Council. LaCoff holds a bachelor's degree from Villanova University, where he also completed graduate training in English. He completed graduate training in business at Temple University. LaCoff also is a past president of Historic Yellow Springs, a non-profit organization focused on art, culture and the environment. He and his wife, Anita, have five grown children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Trustee (term ends Dec. 31, 2021)

- Dr. Richard Frerichs (Penn Manor SD), PSBA Past President

Biography/Statement

Dr. Richard Frerichs is a Millersville University professor emeritus, the 2014 President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, a PSBA Master School Board Director and the recipient of the Allwein Advocacy award. He has played an active role in PSBA currently serving as the chair of the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation and a member of the EdPAC and Insurance Trust Boards.

In addition to his PSBA commitments, he is currently a member of the Penn Manor SD Board of Directors, the Council of Trustees of Millersville University, and chair of the Literacy Council of Lancaster County.

Frerichs received his doctorate from the University of Delaware and served on the faculty of Millersville University for 36 years. He has served as president of the Penn Manor School Board, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit Board, Millersville University Alumni Association and the local chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, and as a board member of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators.

Trustee (term ends Dec. 31, 2021)

- Nathan Mains, PSBA CEO

Biography/Statement

Nathan G. Mains began his tenure as CEO of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association in September 2013. He is a trustee for the Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS), a public pension fund with nearly \$50 billion in assets and the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF), a \$5 billion fund created specifically to assist local education agencies and municipal entities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania manage their investment needs. He is the Board Secretary/ Treasurer of both EdPAC, a statewide political action committee dedicated to promoting candidates that support public



education, and the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation, a statewide nonprofit that promotes excellence in public education. Mr. Mains is a member of the Board of Directors of C.M. Regent Insurance Company, one of the leading insurers of school property in the United States. Prior to joining PSBA, Mr. Mains served as the president and state director for Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania. The organization works within public school systems, determining student needs and establishing relationships with local businesses, social service agencies, health care providers, and parent and volunteer organizations to provide needed resources with the goal of lowering student drop-out rates.



PSBA School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee

This slate is provided for informational purposes only. All voting takes place online. Each member school entity's board secretary has received additional information on the voting procedures.

Forum Steering Committee (term ends Dec. 31, 2020)

- Denise LaPera (Lower Merion SD)

Biography/Statement

Denise LaPera is the Superintendent's Executive Assistant at the Lower Merion School District. Ms. LaPera has been with the district since November, 2010 and also serves as the Board Secretary and the Open Records Officer. Ms. LaPera has supported three superintendents while employed in Lower Merion. Prior to Lower Merion, Ms. LaPera worked for Immaculata University and for the Executive Director at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Educational Office Professionals (PAEOP).

- Peter Bard (Weatherly Area SD)

Biography/Statement

I am 34 years old and a 2008 graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Business. working towards getting a master's Degree in education from Wilkes University with an expected graduation date of May 2019 and am exploring pursuing further educational pathways. I worked in a school district as a bus driver, custodian, summer maintenance, and security officer for over 8 years combined in those various roles. I also have experience dealing with legal claims against and for insurance companies and acted as a safety manager for a para-transit organization as well. I have worked my way from the bottom to being a Business Manager and Board Secretary and I am proud of my strong work ethic. A lifelong resident of Hazleton, PA, I have witnessed the changing culture in our schools first hand, and have the experience and knowledge needed to apply that to the School Board Secretaries forum steering committee.

- Anita Kaseman (Quakertown Community SD)

Biography/Statement

My name is Anita Kaseman and I have been employed by Quakertown Community School District for twelve years. I am an extremely organized, self-starter with strong oral and written communication skills who enjoys a challenge. In my current as well as previous roles, I effectively interact in a professional manner with individuals at all levels within and outside of our organization.

In addition to being the Benefits Manager for the district, I have been performing the duties of the School Board Secretary since the beginning of June 2018. I love to learn as well as share my knowledge with others and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the PSBA School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee.