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## Robert Schwartz



Hello, I am Bob Schwartz, an endorsed candidate for the position of Vice President for the PSBA Board of Directors. I am a Financial Advisor with an independent practice near Lake Wallenpaupack in the Poconos. Having 2 children, one that was his class salutatorian, AND one with special needs is what originally drew me to service on the school board. However, I waited to serve until they both graduated to avoid any conflicts of interest or appearance of hidden agendas.

My tenure on the board is nearing 9 years of service and I have been their representative to IU 19 for over 4 years. I served one term as vice president and two terms as Board President of IU 19.

One of my short-term plans for the PSBA is to increase its value as a resource for IUs and Career Technology Centers. As board members of these organizations we do not have many resources or advocates to turn to for those special needs. To that end, PSBA's Western Region director-at-large, Daniel O'Keefe and I worked together to form just such a segment within the auspices of the PSBA. Although we started to lay the groundwork, there is much more that needs to be done.

One of the important challenges that I see for the PSBA and public education in Pennsylvania is the proliferation of cyber-charter schools and their drain on public school budgets. I have spoken with several legislators and intend to continue to address the inequity of the cyber-charters being able to extract funding

from the public school system without the substantiation of their expenses or meeting the rigorous educational standards that public schools must meet. Additionally, the cyber charters have now targeted special education as a huge revenue source and I feel that this is point that is missed entirely by our legislators. Cyber charters are receiving full special ed funding for minimal effort.

On the other side of the equation- as public schools we have to find a way to appeal to those students that need to avail themselves of a cyber-education. Although we don't want to chase students out of the classroom, we must help them understand that they can utilize cyber-education while attending their home district. This will allow them reap the benefits of being in the district; such as extracurricular activities and walking with their friends at graduation.

Being a financial advisor- I feel that I will also be of service to the board's finance committee.

My allegiance is only to the board and organization as a whole. I enter all discussions with an open mind and make my decisions only after careful consideration of all sides and opinions. I look forward to your support in my endeavor to serve as vice president on the PSBA board.

Robert Schwartz - Vice President Candidate



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