



PSBA Slate of Candidates

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

- David Hein*, Parkland School District (Lehigh Valley County)

Biography/Statement

My name is David Hein and I am running for President-Elect of the PSBA Governing Board. I am a two-term member of the Parkland School Board and the current Vice-President. I am a member and past chairman of our Personnel and Finance committee and have also served on our Academics, Arts and Athletics committee. I also serve on the Joint Operating Committee of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute. I am the current Vice-Chairman and have also served two terms as Treasurer. I have been an active member of PSBA since being elected to the Parkland School Board. I am the current PSBA Governing Board Vice President as well as my board's legislative liaison. I have served on the PSBA Audit Committee, the PSBA Legislative Advisory Committee and the PSBA Leadership Development Committee. I am in my first year of a four-year term as the PSBA representative on the School Safety and Security Committee (a committee under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency). I enjoy attending the annual PSBA conference and delegate assembly and have taken advantage of several webinars and in-person training sessions.

PSBA is the go-to organization for school boards across the state for all things related to public education. Guidance on district policies, budget information, legislative issues, training, and professional development are just some of the services PSBA offers. PSBA is respected on both the state and national level. My vision is to have PSBA remain a relevant and powerful voice in Harrisburg, advocating for a fairly funded, equitable Pennsylvania public school system. I would like to see PSBA continue to partner with other state-wide education organizations (PASA, PASBO and similar organizations) to further promote and strengthen public education in the state.



The 2019/2020 school year played out like no other in recent years. From a pandemic and state-ordered school closures to protests and civil unrest across the state and country, this school year has presented numerous challenges. It laid bare the inequities in resources (technology, education supplies, food) from district to district. And the challenges from previous years did not go away: safety and security, fair funding, charter/cyber charter reform, property tax increases and unfunded mandates just to name a few. School districts will face all of these issues in the near term as well. We, as school board directors, need to continue to fight for more funding, mandate relief and charter school reform. Working in conjunction with PSBA and other like-minded organizations, I believe that we will make progress on these issues. As this school year has shown us, we will need to remain flexible and nimble and be able to pivot to address our ever-changing education landscape.

I hope to be able to continue to serve this great organization and help school districts provide a quality, public education to every child across the state.

Vice President – One Year Team

- Sabrina Backer*, Franklin Area School District (Venango County)

Biography/Statement

I have been fortunate to find a calling that I truly enjoy and that gives me a sense of purpose. I find that in my school board service. It fulfills my need to give back to my community. For this I am a proud member of the FASD school board. Being a member of the Governing Board of PSBA has allowed me to be a part of something larger and to give back in another way. Serving the role of Vice President would allow me to immerse myself even further into school board service. I believe that public education is corner stone for our communities. A member of my local board has said on a few occasions “not everyone parents like you do” about parents not always providing the best they can for their children. This is my reason for what I do. I want to do everything I can to help those children who need the board to fight for them, when their parents do not. This is what I plan to accomplish in my tenure. I want to do what is best for our students, so they can graduate with the best possible education.

Vice President – One Year Team

- Daniel O’Keefe*, Northgate School District (Allegheny County)



Biography/Statement

As the Western At-Large Representative for seven years, I have had the opportunity to participate in the positive growth of PSBA. During this time, the board has been able to significantly improve services to members and increase the membership value. In addition, as we expanded programs, we enhanced the educational component of the organization.

I have seen where PSBA was in 2014, at the transition of the board structure, and where we are today. Having utilized the time in my position of At-Large Representative to develop a thorough understanding of the organization, I am looking for the opportunity to move into a role as an officer to sustain the momentum and support future possibilities for PSBA to support the membership.

My depth of experience as a member of this board will provide a foundation for my service as an officer in support of the organization's continued growth. My desire is to be an integral part of taking the organization to the next level, by drawing on my experience as a PSBA board member, as well as my involvement on many local and regional boards.

Treasurer

- Michael Gossert*, Cumberland Valley School District (Cumberland County)

Biography/Statement

I have Served on the governing board as Treasure for 3 years. I have significant experience with municipal finance as well as nonprofit board experience.

My intent with all my nonprofit experience is to enhance the position of the board and it's members. To keep them in the strongest posts ensure their viability and strength as it relates to their service to the community.

Western at Large

- Marsha Pleta*, Washington School District (Washington County)

Biography/Statement

I wish to serve in the Western At-Large position as I would be a voting member on the Governing Board which leads to change. I believe in Public Education. It should be a birthright that each child in this nation receives the tools and resources for a successful future, regardless of their socioeconomic standing. It requires great organization, collaboration, and communication of all stakeholders. The research, information, and advocacy the PSBA provides will enable



this birthright to prosper.

As a positive communicator, I will ensure that school directors will actively engage in the materials provided by PSBA. When we all have the vision, awareness, and actively seek knowledge then and only then can we truly advocate success for all students. What I hope to accomplish is to ensure that no students are lost in an isolated cyber world where poor education takes place in a non-transparent environment that takes millions of dollars from public education. I am passionate about public education and want to serve the children of this nation to become successful men and women with hopes and dreams that come true!

Sectional Advisors

Section 2

- Aimee Kemick, Ridgway School District (Venango County)

Biography/Statement

I am very passionate about Public Education. I am dedicated to helping students overcome obstacles to achieve academic success. I want to advocate for Public Education on the Local, State and National level. I want to continue my work on the legislative Platform Committee.

Section 4

- Brian Petula, Lackawanna Trail School District (Lackawanna County)

Biography/Statement

I wish to serve in this position to support and help organize fellow School Directors in my region. I hope to learn and share best practices encouraging more interaction between Directors and School Boards. Generally, I would like to contribute toward elevating the professionalism, competence, ethics and public perception of School Directors.

Section 6

- Andrea Christoff*, Mount Union Area School District (Huntingdon County)

Biography/Statement

In January 2019 Karen Devine of PSBA asked me to consider filling a vacancy for Sectional Advisor of Section 6. I was apprehensive to take on the responsibility at first. However, after meeting with Karen and receiving more information, I decided that I would “throw my hat in the ring”. The “job” as Sectional Advisor has provided me with an abundance of knowledge



regarding education to share with fellow board members. I feel as though I am just now becoming familiar with PSBA and all it has to offer the school districts of Pennsylvania. I truly believe I can make a difference and assist other school directors acquire the necessary information they need to make educated decisions for their districts. If I can perform this duty for school districts, then all our students can succeed!

PSBA Insurance Trust

Member entities also are asked to vote for open trustee positions on the PSBA Insurance Trust board. There are currently two seats open and two candidates. A member school entity can vote for up to two individuals. PSBA Insurance Trust provides complimentary travel/accident insurance to all school directors from member school entities while on official school board business. As such, all member entities are considered participants in PSBA Insurance Trust programs and are eligible to vote.

Trustee (Term ends Dec 31, 2023)

- Michael Faccinetto, Bethlehem Area School District
- Marianne Neel, PSBA Past President*

PSBA School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee

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Form Steering Committee (term ends Dec. 31, 2022)

- Stephen Skrocki, North Penn School District
- Tracy Long, Keystone Central School District