

PSBA Leadership Positions up for Election

*Any slated candidate that demonstrates exceptional leadership at the local and state level shall be considered for “endorsement” by the Nominating Committee and the determination shall be noted on the slate of candidates. (PSBA Bylaws, Section 300 – Policy 302)

2025 President-Elect (one-year term)

Sabrina Backer*, Franklin Area School District

My name is Sabrina Backer and it is an honor to be a candidate for President-Elect of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. My journey with PSBA has been both fulfilling and enlightening, starting as a Co-Sectional Advisor on the Governing Board, advancing to Treasurer, and now serving as Vice President. Each role has deepened my commitment to the mission of PSBA and our collective goal of advancing public education excellence across Pennsylvania.

My extensive experience on the Pennsylvania School Safety Institute Advisory Board and Chair of the Platform Committee has equipped me with a thorough understanding of the critical issues facing schools today. Additionally, my role as a trustee on the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund Board and my participation in the PCCD School Safety and Security Committee have provided me with a broad perspective on the financial and safety challenges that our schools encounter.

Since 2014, I have proudly served on the Board of Directors for the Franklin Area School District and I have served as President for the past three years. This tenure has taught me the importance of community engagement, transparency, and unwavering dedication to the welfare of our students and educators.

As President-Elect, I pledge to bring my comprehensive experience and steadfast dedication to furthering public education and PSBA’s mission. Together, we can continue to advocate for safe, equitable high-quality education for all students across the Commonwealth. Your support is invaluable, and I am eager to work collaboratively to make a lasting impression.

Thank you for considering me for this esteemed position. Let’s continue to look for a brighter future for our schools and communities.

2025 Vice President (one-year term)

Matt Vannoy*, Sharon City School District

Hi, my name is Matt Vannoy and I am a school director for the Sharon City School District (Mercer Co.) and serve on the Finance, Buildings and Grounds and Budget Committee. I am also a member of the PSBA Governing Board and the PSBA Western 1 Sectional Advisor. Professionally, I am a Principal in the Conneaut School District (Crawford Co.) and have also been a Social Studies Teacher, Athletic Director and Assistant Principal in the Farrell Area School District, Moniteau School District and Sharon City School District. I am a member of the PIAA District 10 Committee, PIAA Cross Country Steering Committee, the Slippery Rock University Alumni Association Board of Directors, several boards under the ARC of Mercer County umbrella and several other local boards. In 2018, I was a recipient of the SRU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Recent Alumni Award as well as the Mercer County Chambers of Commerce 40 Under 40 award. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Slippery Rock University in 2009 and earned my M.Ed and Superintendent’s Letter of Eligibility from Westminster College. Serving on the PSBA Governing Board has been a highlight of my career and I look forward to continuing to serve PSBA as the Vice President of the Governing Board and working with the staff and PSBA members across the state to advocate for public education. I have enjoyed my time as a Sectional Advisor and the interactions that it brings with school directors in my area. I look forward to working with PSBA to advocate for cyber charter reform, mental health supports for schools, increased education funding and other areas that will benefit school districts. I appreciate your support. Thank you.

2025-2027 PSBA Eastern Zone Representative (three-year term) (Only Eastern Sections vote)

Holly Arnold*, Tunkhannock Area School District

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to check out this video. My name is Holly Arnold, and I am the endorsed candidate on your ballot for the position of Eastern Zone Representative on the PSBA Governing Board for the 2025 - 2027 term.

I live in Tunkhannock in Wyoming County and have served on the board of the Tunkhannock Area School District since 2015 and as president since 2021. I work as an Environmental Scientist and state-licensed operator for GHD Group, a global engineering and consulting firm. My husband and I share our blended family with four children ages 17 to 27, one grandchild with another on the way and three doodle dogs. A children's joke goes, "If I had 8 apples in one hand and 10 oranges in the other, what would I have?" The answer? "Big Hands."

This makes me think of those first years as a school board director and the expectation that you will make very real and important decisions about things you may have had no experience with in your life. Yet here you are, voting on things with the same authority as eight other people at the table with you on many subjects at every meeting. Big Hands, indeed.

It was that experience that led to my appreciation and gratitude for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. My involvement with PSBA started right away with new board member training, before it was required, and an appointment as PSBA liaison for the Tunkhannock Area School Board. I attended trainings and meetings online and in person, attended the conference, and let my voice be heard as a voting member of the Delegate Assembly, which was quite an experience. PSBA offered a shopping cart full of resources to help carry the load of being a well-informed school board member. It was a relief to know that I had something to lean into besides just what I could fit in my theoretical "big hands".

Through this engagement, I got to know the people at PSBA and was asked to serve on the Platform Committee and then the Bylaws Committee. Eventually, I was asked to be involved as a Sectional Advisor for section E1 and ultimately applied to be appointed as the Eastern Zone Representative on the Governing Board when the previous member was unable to finish this term.

Why should you vote for me? The best answer is that I come to this role with no ulterior motive or personal aspiration and no political interest. I want to be involved with PSBA simply because I have experienced firsthand the value provided to school board directors across the state and seen behind the curtain that this organization is true to its mission. In my service as a school board director, every vote and decision I have made is in the light of what is best for our students, staff, and community. I don't believe there is a place for politics in education, and I have seen that same dedication in not only the words but also the acts of the PSBA. Should I be elected to continue my service on the PSBA Governing Board, I can assure you that I would not compromise in doing what is best to assist school board directors in serving students, staff, and communities. I'll fulfill my commitment with integrity, respect, and fidelity.

Thanks again for taking the time to view this video and for considering me to continue in the role of Eastern Zone Representative.

2025-2026 Western Zone Representative (two-year term) (Only Western Sections vote)

Kristy Bolte*, Northwestern School District

I have been honored to have been appointed to the Western Zone Representative seat on the PSBA Governing board to fill a vacancy for 2024 and I am seeking election for this seat for this term. With a deep commitment to educational excellence and advocacy, I am eager to contribute to the PSBA's mission "to provide school board directors with services, support and counsel as they lead their districts, navigate relationships and promote public education across Pennsylvania".

A graduate of Edinboro University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, I am a former teacher and a mom of six. My husband is a middle school teacher at Conneaut School District, also in western Pennsylvania. We live in West Springfield Pennsylvania. I believe quality public education is the cornerstone of healthy communities and that belief has directed me to my local school board so that I can advocate for our students, teachers and communities. I am currently serving my second term in Northwestern School District in Albion, Pennsylvania (the VERY most Northwestern district in the state) and on the board for IU5. I have seen first hand the transformative power of effective school board representation and have been so grateful for the guidance and education I have received through PSBA.

If elected, I pledge to prioritize following the vision of PSBA, "to work to foster informed, engaged and passionate school board directors who lead and advocate effectively for great public education across Pennsylvania." I believe the work of PSBA has made me a more effective leader and advocate for my community.

I am dedicated to fostering strong relationships between PSBA and our local communities, ensuring that voices and concerns of those in Western Pennsylvania are brought to the table as each portion of the state may have different perspectives and concerns.

Together, through honesty, integrity, collaboration and innovation, we can navigate the challenges facing our schools and seize opportunities to innovate and improve. I am excited about the prospect of serving as your advocate on the PSBA Governing Board, and I look forward to earning your trust and support in this important endeavor.

2025-2026 Section E2 Advisor (two-year term) (Only Section E-2 vote)

David Hein*, Parkland School District

My name is David Hein, and I am running for the PSBA Section E2 Sectional Advisor position, a position I currently hold. I am a three-term member of the Parkland School Board in Lehigh County, where I have served in several leadership positions, as well as all our committees. I am a member of the Joint Operating Committee of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute, holding various leadership roles over my tenure there. I am also Parkland's representative on the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees. I have been an active member of PSBA since being elected to the Parkland School Board. I am a PSBA past-President and PSBA's representative on COSSBA, the Consortium of State School Boards Association. I am Parkland's PSBA liaison and have served on several PSBA committees. I also served 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. As the first school boards association in the country, I believe that PSBA is the go-to organization for school boards across the state for all things related to public education. Professional development, legislative advocacy, school safety training, and policy updates are just some of the services PSBA offers. PSBA is respected on both the state and national level. My role as E2 Sectional Advisor will include providing you with information on current issues facing public education in Pennsylvania so that you can advocate for your district's needs. I also want to help 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 strengthen its partnership with other state-wide education organizations (PASA, PASBO and similar organizations) to further promote public education in the state.

I hope to be able to continue to support you in your roles as public school board directors, while also serving PSBA in its leadership and advocacy efforts to strengthen all public schools in Pennsylvania. Thank you.

PSBA Insurance Trustees

Member entities also are asked to vote for open trustee positions on the PSBA Insurance board. PSBA Insurance 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 programs and are eligible to vote.

Trustee (term ends Dec. 31, 2027) – Includes three candidates (three-year term)

Choose up to three candidates for a three-year term.

Nathan G. Mains

Richard Frerichs

William S. LaCoff

School Board Secretaries Forum

(Only school board secretaries may nominate and vote for the forum officers.)

Forum Steering Committee (term ends Dec. 31, 2026) – (two-year term)

Choose up to two individuals for a two-year term

Betsy Gates, Dauphin County Technical School

I have been with Dauphin County Technical School for 4 years. My time at DCTS started in the Student Services office. During that time, I was asked to be the back up School Board Secretary. I was then promoted to the Administrative Assistant in the Director's Office as well as Board Secretary. I am so thankful that my journey brought me to DCTS and to the SBS group! I have enjoyed being a part of the SBS Steering Committee to date, and, and I hope to continue doing so!

Mary Dougherty, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23

Mary Dougherty has been a school board secretary for over 21 years in both the school district and intermediate unit settings. She served as a school board secretary and executive assistant to the superintendent for 10 years at the Hatboro-Horsham School District in Montgomery County. She expanded her role to school board secretary and executive assistant to the executive director and assistant executive director of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in 2013. The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is governed by a 21-member board of directors composed of representatives from each of the 21 component school districts in Montgomery County. Career highlights focus on excellence in communication, customer service, project management and event planning in addition to board secretary responsibilities.