

# PSBA Officer Elections - Slate of Candidates

## President-Elect

### ❖ **Sabrina Backer**

### **Franklin Area School District**

Sabrina Backer has been active in public education since her children started elementary school. She began with the executive board of their school's parent/teacher organization, moved on to her local school board in 2015, and then served as Section 1 advisor, and on the Governing Board of PSBA in 2018. Since being elected to the Franklin Area School Board, she has served as PSBA liaison, and on their Hall of Fame, Personnel Operations, and Negotiations committees, chairing both the Personnel and Operations committees. Sabrina also has served on PSBA's Bylaws and Platform committees, the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation, been a member of the Legislative Advisory Council and the chair of the Policy Committee. Sabrina attended Fayetteville State University and is the chief clerk/county administrator for Venango County. She resides in Franklin with her husband Brian and their two children – Britton, a freshman at Penn State, and Cambree, a sophomore at Franklin Jr./Sr. High School.

#### **In response to the nomination form question, “Why I wish to serve in this position and what I hope to accomplish?”**

“I believe that public education is the foundation for which success begins. If we are to have upstanding productive adult members of society we must first educate them as youths. All children deserve to have a chance for success and in order for that to happen we must have a strong public education system. If not for advocates of public education the system could be flawed. We must walk a fine line between governmental involvement, local jurisdiction, and proper education. I believe this the core principle of what PSBA stands for. I have been honored to be a part of PSBA for the past few years and feel that my journey is not complete. I believe that in the role of President Elect I will be able to foster the core values and principles that the PSBA is built on. Being a dedicated and active member of an organization that is built on supporting our future leaders is not only necessary, but it truly is a pleasure. I hope to continue my passion of promoting public education in a stronger leadership role.”

[Sabrina Backer - President-Elect Video](#)

### ❖ **David Schaap**

### **Brentwood Borough School District**

David Schaap has been a school board director for the Brentwood Borough School District for 15 years. He is president and founder of Selah Publishing Co., an internationally known publisher of church music, founded in 1988. Schaap is also organist/choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pa. His undergraduate studies were at Calvin College in

Grand Rapids, Mich., with a double major in music (composition and arranging) and art (sculpture). Schaap has led workshops, plenaries, hymn festivals, and reading sessions for national and regional meetings throughout the United States.

As a representative of Brentwood's School Board, Schaap has served on the board of directors for Steel Center Career and Technical School for 14 years and the Mon Valley Area Special School District for 14 years and most of that as president. The last five years, Schaap has been an elected member of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, serving as treasurer, vice-president, and is in his second term as president. Schaap served on the PSBA effective governance committee that rewrote the current "Principles for Governance and Leadership"; PSBA Policy committee in 2016; served as assistant PSBA regional director starting in 2010 until positions were re-configured; has been PSBA liaison for Brentwood Borough School District for most of his 15-year tenure; and presented a workshop at the 2019 PSBA Leadership Conference ("Charting the Course: A VIP Event for Brentwood Borough School District"). Schaap has attended over a dozen annual School Leadership conferences, participated in many PSBA delegate assemblies, attended several PSBA legislative forums, and completed his required school director training through PSBA.

Schaap is married to Virginia, a musician and educator, and his three children graduated from Brentwood Borough High School. His youngest child is finishing up his undergraduate studies to become an elementary school teacher.

**In response to the nomination form question, "Why I wish to serve in this position and what I hope to accomplish?"**

"I have worked with both large and small school districts and large and small budgets with the four school boards I serve. I always work to understand the history, the challenges, and the successes, and do the research and ask questions to be prepared for the meetings. I push to focus on the long-term health of each organization, challenging them to thoughtfully plan for the future. I would do no less as President-Elect of the PSBA and I will show up and do the work. It would be my honor to serve as your President-Elect."

[David Schaap - President-Elect Video](#)

## **Vice President**

❖ **Allison Mathis\***

**North Hills School District**

Allison Mathis was elected to the North Hills School District Board of Education in 2017 and has served as Board President since December of 2019. She has also chaired the school district's Education Committee. Allison has two school aged children, is a former PTA President and an

active parent volunteer. Her professional background is in project management and communications.

**In response to the nomination form question, “Why I wish to serve in this position and what I hope to accomplish?”**

“When first elected to North Hills School Board, my colleague, a long-serving board member, immediately advised me to learn about PSBA. She discussed the valuable resources and programs that PSBA offers and how my involvement would contribute to my growth as a new board member. This was probably the best advice she could have offered me. As a result, I have utilized and appreciated the resources and services from PSBA, particularly during the pandemic. I truly believe that the support, education, and camaraderie provided by PSBA has made me a better board member and a better leader.

I currently serve as a Sectional Advisor and would love the opportunity to expand my involvement by serving on the governing board as vice president. I am a dedicated school board member and exhibit professionalism in all circumstances. I would bring this dedication and professionalism to my role on the governing board. I would be a strong representative of PSBA and champion your mission, vision, and values.

I apply for this role with no specific agenda, but for to further expand my advocacy for public education, and my involvement in your organization. It would be my honor to represent the Association.”

[Allison Mathis - Vice President Video](#)

## **East Zone Representative**

### **❖ Edward Brown\***

### **Upper Darby School District**

Ed Brown has served on the Upper Darby School Board since 2017. From Vice-President in his first two years, he is now the President of the board. He is very active in his local community and currently acts as the Business Manager for a local non-profit organization he helped start. This organization provides free technology courses to the community, and back to school items for children.

**In response to the nomination form question, “Why I wish to serve in this position and what I hope to accomplish?”**

“I wish to serve in this position since I think that it gives me another opportunity to serve students and families albeit in a different way. Ultimately, I see this leadership role as another

way to provide the best possible education to children advocating and attempting to meet their needs big and small. This role also would allow me to communicate, collaborate, and learn from my colleagues in other Districts and benefit from the many different perspectives and viewpoints all trying to accomplish the same goals.

If I am selected to serve in this capacity, I hope to retain the standard of excellence that my predecessor brought to the role in terms of communication and service. I believe that the role has specific expectations so my plan would be to honor the integrity of the role but also use my creativity and add a few new ideas to make it even better by enhancing it. Based on my observation, PSBA representatives at all levels represent caring, passionate advocates who singular focus is on providing quality, fair, and equitable educational opportunities for students. I would be honored to join those ranks as the East Zone Representative.”

(No video available)

## **Section 7 Advisor**

❖ **Justin Warren\***

**Central Dauphin School District**

Justin Warren is a passionate community leader. He currently serves as Vice President of the Central Dauphin School Board and is acting Section 7 Advisor. During his first term in office, Justin has spearheaded several major initiatives within his district including the construction of a new elementary school, the selection of both a new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, and as Technology Chair, he has worked side by side with School Administration to evolve into a 1:1 device to student district.

Professionally, Warren is a career telecom & IT business executive providing both fiber & cloud infrastructure. Justin resides in the Harrisburg area and is the proud father of two college students, Victoria & Nigel.

[Justin Warren - Section 7 Advisor Video](#)

- \* 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 303)

## PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees

Member entities also are asked to vote for open trustee positions on the PSBA Insurance Trust board. There are currently three seats open and three candidates. A member school entity can vote for up to three 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, 2024)

*Choose up to three candidates for a 3-year term.*

- Richard Frerichs
- William LaCoff
- Nathan Mains

## School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee

*\*School Board Secretary vote only\**

### Forum Steering Committee (term ends Dec. 31, 2023)

*Choose up to three incumbents for a 2-year term*

#### ❖ **Jennifer Davidson**

#### **Manheim Township School District**

Jennifer Davidson has been a School Board Secretary and an Executive to the Superintendent for a combined 12 years. Seven years at Manheim Central School District, and currently seven years at Manheim Township School District in Lancaster County with a student population of 5,800. Career highlights include a focus in event planning, governance, and employee relations training, in addition to board secretary responsibilities.

#### ❖ **Deana Lancenese**

#### **Palisades School District**

Deana is the Secretary to the Superintendent for the Palisades School District, and a Board Member for the Advocates of the Homeless of Upper Bucks County. Prior to being employed by the school district, Deana held a management role within a financial institution, and an administrative role at her church.

#### ❖ **Bethanne Zeigler**

#### **Shikellamy School District**

Beth currently serves as Chairman to PSBA Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee. She works in the Shikellamy School District as the Board Secretary, as well as the Secretary to the

Superintendent/Supervisor of Educational Secretaries. Beth has been an active member of the executive committee since 2007. She served as President in 2013 and as Vice President in 2012, and 2017. Beth has presented at state conferences on various topics related to board meetings, minutes, as well as organization, time management, and health and wellness. In addition to her duties at Shikellamy, she is a Board Member of Sunbury Revitalization, Inc. Beth is extremely active within her community, and is married with three children.

❖ **Jaime Lynn Zimerofsky**      **Schuylkill IU 29**

Jaime works at the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 as the Executive Secretary in the Administrative/Executive Office. She has been employed at the IU since September 2006 starting in the Special Education Department. In July 2016, Jaime transitioned to her current role, Executive Secretary. In addition, Jaime serves as the Board Secretary for both the Schuylkill Intermediate Unity and Schuylkill Technology Center Board of Directors. She is also the Recording Secretary for the Chief Administrators meetings. In her personal life, Jaime is married with two busy boys, and enjoys coaching their soccer teams.