

PSBA Officer Elections – 2023 Slate of Candidates

President-Elect

❖ **Michael Gossert***

Cumberland Valley School District

Mike Gossert has been a board director for Cumberland Valley School District since 2012. He also has showed his leadership skills by serving on many boards, including the American Heart Association Capital Region Heart Walk and Heart Ball, the board of Friends of Fort Hunter, and the PASSHE Foundation board. He also has served on the board of his local chapter of the National Marine Corps Business Network. On a regional level, he has been a member of PSBA's governing board, and he is a board member of the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation. He is also chair of the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF). Professionally Michael owns his own government consulting business. As the owner of his small business, he helps local governments, school districts and authorities learn to run more efficiently, how to govern effectively and manage transitions.

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

“It seems the important issues facing public schools continue to multiply. Many of us in our daily lives make lists that we need to accomplish and as we complete the tasks enumerated on the list, we cross them off. The list of issues facing public schools continues to get longer because there seems to be no desire from our legislators to fix them or cross them off the list. Pensions, charter schools, unfunded mandates, property taxes, funding equity and so forth. We hear our legislators complain but offer no real solutions.

Public schools are under attack from both sides of the political aisle. I would like to be that someone who has a powerful organization behind them to lead the fight to start crossing these and many other important issues off the list by finding common ground and advocating on behalf of public schools and resolving those issues.”

(Video available at: [Michael Gossert* – PSBA](#))

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 2019. She also has been serving as finance chair since 2021. Her PSBA participation includes serving as a sectional advisor for Section 5 to now

serving as PSBA's current vice president on the governing board. Allison has two school-aged children, is a former PTO president, vice president and secretary for their elementary school, and sits on the board for the North Hills Foundation. 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 vice president on the governing board and would love the opportunity to continue my involvement. 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 to further expand and continue my advocacy for public education and my involvement in your organization. It would be my honor to continue to represent the association."

(No video available)

Central Zone Representative

❖ Julie Preston

Northern Tioga School District

Julie Preston has been a member of the Northern Tioga School Board since 2008. She was vice president and in 2015 was elected president, a role she still holds. She also sits on the Intermediate Unit 17 board and had served as the treasurer until 2017 when she became vice president from 2018-21. In her community, she is the Tioga Old Home Day committee treasurer, Tioga Volunteer Firemen's Ambulance treasurer, CUMC church auditor and has served on local election boards as an inspector of elections. She has been a PSBA liaison for several years, a regional director and a Section 3 leader until the end of her term this year. She has attended the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference every year since becoming a board member in 2008. She is a retired independent grocery store owner.

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

“I have been on my local school board for 15 years looking out for all students’ best interest within our budgetary constraints. I have gone through school consolidation to pull in the reins of spending. My district has 2,100 students within a 336 square mile radius that expands 60 miles, east to west! We have three elementary schools and two high schools.

I would like to think my expertise in rural public education would be a help to PSBA in looking out for all students in education. Certainly, I hope I can help make a difference!”

(No video available)

Section C1 Advisor

❖ **Thomas Kerek**

Kane Area School District

Maj. Thomas C. Kerek (Ret.) serves as a school director in the Kane Area SD (McKean Co.) where he is also the Intermediate Unit 9 representative for the district. Maj. Kerek has 22 years of service with the Pennsylvania National Guard and 28 years in the Federal Government. He is passionate about community involvement, especially in the area of education and nonprofit fundraising. Maj. Kerek also 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. Maj. Kerek holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also matriculated in secondary education at Mansfield University prior to receiving a position with the United States Government. Maj. Kerek has served on PSBA’s Governing Counsel as Sectional Co-Lead in the past and also participated in: Leadership Development Committee, By-Laws Committee, and PSBA EdPAC Committee. Maj. Kerek also was involved with the re-development of the past “Principles for Governance and Leadership” for school boards used throughout Pennsylvania School Boards. He was also active in the local community being on the Library Board and involved in the Trail Association of the McKean Elk Divide (TAMED) a Rails to Trail Project with future expansion to other trail groups throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His hobbies include model trains, airplanes and rocketry. He also enjoys woodworking, backpacking, muzzle-loading hunting, genealogical research and antiques collecting. Currently he has been active as a substitute teacher and long term substitute teacher in the local area school districts.

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

“Several years ago, I decided to get my certification as a substitute teacher so that I could better understand the current educational climate in the state of Pennsylvania. I have always been an advocate of public education since starting my public employment with the state of Pennsylvania and then with the United States federal government. Being the son of an immigrant mother (who died when I was young) and then being raised by an American mother (who pushed public education), I realized that public education provides the citizens of this commonwealth the

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opportunity to excel in the American experience. I want that for all students in this commonwealth. All my sisters and brother have used our public education to become successful contributing members of American society.”

(Video Available at: [Thomas Kerek – PSBA](#))

Section E2 Advisor

❖ Karen Beck Pooley*

Bethlehem Area School District

Karen Beck Pooley is a Professor of Practice of Political Science at Lehigh University, where she directs the Environmental Policy Master’s Program and the Community Fellows Program. She also serves as the Director of Research and Analytics at czb LLC (an urban planning and neighborhood development consulting firm), and is a member of the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) School Board, BASD Proud Parents, and the Northampton Community College Board of Trustees, and on the Steering Committee of Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wellesley College, a Master of Urban Planning & Policy from New School University’s Milano Graduate School, and a Ph.D. in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

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

“I see this as an exciting extension of the work I've been doing with Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding, Lehigh Valley for Fair Funding, and BASD Proud Parents (our district's parent advocacy group). I really enjoy staying current on local, state and national legislation and issues affecting our schools, and also enjoy engaging others on those topics, too.”

(Video Available at: [Karen Beck Pooley* – PSBA](#))

Section E4 Advisor

❖ Amy Goldman*

Radnor Township School District

Amy Goldman was first elected to the Radnor Township School Board in November of 2015. Amy has served on all five of Radnor’s School Board committees and has chaired both the Policy and Government Relations/Communications committees for multiple years. In 2021, Amy was elected as Board President and is currently serving in that role, after having served two consecutive terms as Board Vice President. In her seven years on the Radnor board, Amy has served on the Delaware County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors and been a Co-Chair of Delaware County's School Boards Legislative Council. Amy’s first PSBA activity was her participation in PSBA’s 2016 Future of Education Blueprint Task Force and she was also a member of PSBA’s School Reopening Task Force during the pandemic. She has been a regular attendee of PSBA’s Advocacy Days and was asked by PSBA to help coordinate and facilitate many of those legislative meetings. She regularly participates in PSBA’s School Leadership Conferences, Sectional Meetings and Delegate Assemblies, as well as numerous other PSBA

trainings, workshops, webinars and virtual monthly exchanges. Amy has been a member of PSBA's Legislative Advisory Committee and Audit Review and Risk Management Committee and also served as Chair of the Bylaws Committee. Amy was first elected as a Sectional Advisor in 2018 and then was appointed to another two-year term in 2020. Prior to being elected to the Radnor School Board, Amy spent over ten years as an active PTO leader and school district volunteer in many roles. She has also served on the Radnor Educational Foundation's Grants Committee and Board of Directors. Prior to Amy's volunteer work in the educational space for more than the past twenty years, Amy worked in television advertising sales and marketing, including most recently for 6ABC-TV in Philadelphia. Amy is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and completed a Fellowship with Pennsylvania's Educational Policy and Leadership Center in 2018.

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

"I would like to continue serving as a Sectional Advisor because I have enjoyed providing boots-on-the-ground support to school board members in my service area. School directors sometimes turn to their colleagues to help them navigate and access the many services and supports that PSBA has to offer. I feel fortunate to have been a Sectional Advisor to learn from and help my school board neighbors, as well as connect them to the corresponding PSBA staff and leaders to obtain whatever it is that they are seeking. I hope these joint efforts have resulted in stronger member satisfaction and engagement, and I believe there is even more potential to be realized. End user feedback is important and helpful, and I appreciate when colleagues reach out to ask questions and share perspectives. It is a privilege to be this resource for my colleagues as PSBA helps us grow as school directors and we advocate together for well funded public education and the crucial supports our students need for success. PSBA is always planning new membership initiatives in support of public education, and I look forward to working with PSBA staff and school directors on those efforts as well."

(No video available)

* 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

**Trustee (term ends Dec. 31, 2025 - Includes
two candidates (three-year term)
Choose up to two candidates for a three-
year term**

❖ **Kathy K. Swope**

Kathy K. Swope is a PSBA Past President and former school board director and board president of Lewisburg Area School Board, where she served for over two decades. She is the current board chair of the PSBA Insurance Trust and a board director of the CM Regent Insurance Company. As a member of the Early Learning Investment Committee of the Susquehanna River Valley, she chairs the Champions of Early Childhood Education Initiative. In addition, she was appointed by the County Commissioners to represent Union County on the America 250PA Committee planning the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. She holds a degree in Elementary Education from Susquehanna University and is an Education and Governance Consultant by profession, currently serving as the Transition Director of the newly formed Consortium of State School Boards Associations.

❖ **Roberta M. Marcus**

Roberta M. Marcus serves as the consultant-in-residence for PSBA. As a past president and the former co-chair of the Principles for Effective Governance and Leadership Committee, she contributes her experience, training and knowledge on board directors' roles and responsibilities. Her accreditations include PSBA's Chief Executive Officer's Distinguished Service Pin, Accredited School Director Leader (Retired) and the Allwein Advocacy Award. She is also past chair of the PSBA Insurance Trust. She was awarded the Parkland School District Superintendent's Parkland Pride Award. Marcus served 20 years as an elected school board director for the Parkland School District, where she served multiple times as president, vice president, chair of several committees and liaison to the Community Advisory Council.

School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee

~School Board Secretary vote only~

Forum Steering Committee (term ends Dec. 31, 2024)

Choose up to three incumbents for a 2-year term

❖ **Tracy Long** **Keystone Central School District**

Tracy works at Keystone Central School District as the Human Resources Generalist. She has served on the School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee since January 2020. Tracy has worked in Human Resources since 2008. In July 2019, she took on the additional role of School Board Secretary. Tracy is motivated to provide administrative support to the Board of Directors and all stakeholders of the Keystone Central School District.

❖ **Steve Skrocki** **North Penn School District**

Mr. Steve Skrocki is the Chief Financial Officer and Board Secretary for the North Penn School District in Montgomery County. Mr. Skrocki is entering his 9th year at North Penn and his 30th year of school district business administration. Mr. Skrocki is a Pennsylvania Certified School Business Administrator through PASBO and holds a Master's in Business Administration degree. Mr. Skrocki currently serves on the SBS Forum Committee and would like to serve another two years.