

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 www.psba.org/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 on 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 term)

- **Art Levinowitz***, Upper Dublin School District (Montgomery Co.)

Biography/Statement

Art Levinowitz has been involved in education for his entire professional life. He was a teacher for eight years, employed as an administrator for more than 25 years for the New Jersey State Department of Education, and has served on Upper Dublin School Board for 20 years, including five as president. For the past 10 years he also has served as the president of the joint operating committee of the Eastern Center for the Arts and Technology. He has experience serving PSBA as both a regional director and Section 8 advisor. Last year Art was elected PSBA vice president. In addition to that role, he currently serves on the PSBA Finance Committee and as a director for the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation. In 2017, he participated and completed the Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program.

Vice President (one-year term)

- **David Hein***, Parkland School District (Lehigh Co.)

Biography/Statement

David Hein is a two-term member of the Parkland School Board and its current vice-president. He also chairs the Personnel and Finance Committee and has served on the Academics, Arts and Athletics Committee. He serves on the joint operating committee of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute and is its most recent treasurer. He has been an active member of PSBA since being elected to the Parkland School Board. He serves on the PSBA Audit Committee and the PSBA Legislative Advisory Committee. He is the legislative liaison for his school board and served on the PSBA Leadership Development Committee last year. David enjoys attending the annual PSBA conference and Delegate Assembly and has participated in several webinars and live training sessions.



Central At-Large (three-year term)

- Julie Preston*, Northern Tioga School District (Tioga Co.)

Biography/Statement

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 currently holds. She also sits on the Intermediate Unit 17 board and had served as the treasurer until last year when she became vice president. 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. Julie has three adult children and eight grandchildren, one of whom has Down syndrome. She and her husband are retired independent grocery store owners.

Section 1 Advisor (two-year term)

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

Biography/Statement

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.

Section 3 Advisor (two-year term)

- Ron Cole*, Sayre Area School District (Bradford Co.)

Biography/Statement

Ron Cole has been a school board member in the Sayre Area School District for nine years. He is the current board vice president, chairman of the Community Relations Committee and a PSBA liaison. He also is a board member for the Northern Tier Career Center. Ron holds a bachelor's degree in communications and an associate degree in broadcasting from York College of Pennsylvania. During his four decades as a broadcaster, he spent almost 30 years in the Guthrie Health System's education department.



Section 5 Advisor (two-year term)

- Marsha Pleta, Washington School District (Washington Co.)

Biography/Statement

Marsha Pleta is vice president of the Washington Area School Board and formerly served as board treasurer. She currently serves as PSBA liaison and Section 5 advisor. She is on the Legislative Advisory Committee and has been active in advocacy efforts on behalf of the association. She also has served as a member of the PSBA Leadership Development and Delegate Assembly committees. She regularly participates in events such as PSBA Advocacy Day, PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference, Board Presidents Panel and other professional development opportunities.

Section 7 Advisor (two-year term)

- Tricia Steiner*, Derry Township School District (Dauphin Co.)

Biography/Statement

Tricia Steiner has been a school director for Derry Township School District since 2017. She regularly attends PSBA professional development events such as the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference and Advocacy Day. She participates actively as an advocate and is a member of the PSBA Equity Taskforce.



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 school entity can vote for up to two individuals.

Trustee (term ends December 31, 2022)

- **Kathy K. Swope (Lewisburg School District)**

Kathy K. Swope is a PSBA past president in her 21st year of service as a school director in the Lewisburg Area School District, serving the last 12 years as board president. She is the current board chair of the PSBA Insurance Trust and a member of the PA Public Education Foundation board. She is a trustee of the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund and 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 is a member of the Union County Historical Society board of directors. She holds a degree in elementary education from Susquehanna University and is a freelance writer and photographer by profession.

Trustee (term ends December 31, 2022)

- **Mark B. Miller (Centennial School District)**

Mark B. Miller is completing his third term as an elected school director of the Centennial School District in Bucks County, PA. He is completing his first term as a trustee and has contributed more than a decade of service to PSBA. Mark has served as a member or officer of PSBA's Governing Board for seven years, during which time he's been a staunch public education advocate. His efforts earned numerous awards and acknowledgments, including citations from the PA House, PA Senate, and Congress. Among his most prized recognitions are the Allwein Society Legislative Advocacy Award (2014) and PSBA CEO's Distinguished Service Award (2018). Among Mark's other service, he is vice-chair of Middle Bucks Institute of Technology, co-chair of Keystone State Education Coalition and on the Easy Procure Board of Managers. Mark was the founding chairperson of EdPAC and a director of the Network for Public Education. His service also includes service to NSBA. Mark has been a delegate to the Federal Relations Network since 2008 and has been a member or chair of several NSBA committees and task forces. Mark believes there is no higher service to public education than that of being an elected school director in the community in which you reside.



School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee

Member entities also are asked to vote for open trustee positions on the School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee. All voting takes place online as part of the PSBA Officer Elections ballot; it is a two-part ballot. Please choose up to three incumbents for a two-year term.

Trustees (term ends December 31, 2021)

- Bethanne Zeigler (Shikellamy School District)
- Crystal Mance (Cheltenham Township School District)
- Jamie Lynn Zimerofsky (Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and Schuylkill Technology Center)
- **Jennifer Davidson (Manheim Township School District)**



Frequently Asked Questions

The answers below are drawn primarily from PSBA Bylaws and PSBA Policy 108 – Procedures and Campaign Policy for Election of Officers and At-Large Representatives)

- **How many affirmative votes are needed to select a candidate?**
A candidate must receive a simple majority of votes of a quorum of the entity's governing board in order for an entity's vote to be cast for that candidate.
- **What happens if a school board is deadlocked and cannot select one candidate for a particular office?**
If the board is unable to produce a majority vote for a candidate, no vote is cast by the entity for that elected position.
- **Does the school board need to vote at a public meeting to elect PSBA officers?**
Yes. PSBA Policy 108 specifies that votes of an entity's board are to be cast at a public meeting.
- **Is a roll call vote needed?**
A roll call vote is not required. However, that procedure may be used if it appears necessary in order to accurately determine the outcome of a vote that is not unanimous.
- **Are governing boards of intermediate units, career and technical centers and community colleges also entitled to cast votes in PSBA elections?**
Yes. The boards of all PSBA member entities whose current-year membership dues are paid in full are eligible to cast that entity's votes in PSBA elections.
- **If I am also on the IU board or CTC JOC, does that mean I am able to participate in the voting of each entity?**
Yes.
- **May a board abstain from voting on a particular office?**
There is no general rule that requires a vote to be cast for every office on a ballot, so as a practical matter abstention is allowed, but of course not encouraged.
- **Our board secretary never received an email from Simply Voting with the log in password to the online ballot.**
This email will not arrive until voting opens on Aug. 23. Be sure your firewall security is allowing the email vote@simplyvoting.com to get through. Additionally, you can notify your IT staff that email blasts from Simply Voting will originate from the IP address: 198.21.6.73 or 184.173.105.83.



Ask them to add these to your firewall safe lists. **PLEASE NOTE:** Only member entities in good standing may vote. If your dues have not arrived by Aug. 12, you will not receive the email with the link to the ballot. Passwords will be released once we receive dues for 2019-20.

➤ **Why do some candidates have an asterisk next to their name on the ballot?**

The Leadership Development Committee may, by majority vote, determine that one or more candidates for any elected position will be designated on the ballot as a candidate the Leadership Development Committee considers to be highly qualified. (PSBA Bylaws, Section 6 C – Nominations)

Below is an excerpt from PSBA Policy 108 (as amended August 13, 2015), addressing how votes are cast by member entity boards.

J. Voting procedures.

1. *Voting procedures. Voting and registering of votes shall take place during a period commencing eight (8) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Delegate Assembly and ending two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Delegate Assembly, unless the PSBA Governing Board declares a shorter voting period. Specific dates for the first and last day of voting shall be widely publicized to the membership.*
2. *Sufficiently prior to the voting window, printed slates of candidates, along with instructions for voting, shall be distributed to the board secretary of the Governing Board of each member entity eligible to cast votes. For purposes of the PSBA election process and this policy, a Joint Operating Committee is regarded as that entity's Governing Board.*
3. *Casting of votes by member entities.*
 - a. *Each member entity whose current year PSBA dues have been paid in full shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each elected position presented for election. An entity may cast a vote only for an at-large position for the section of the state to which it is assigned.*
 - b. *The vote of the entity for each position shall be determined by simple majority vote of the entity's Governing Board (majority of a quorum), cast at a public meeting of the Board.*
 - c. *A candidate must receive a majority of votes of a quorum of the entity's Governing Board present and voting in order for an entity's vote to be cast for that candidate. A plurality of votes by an entity's Governing Board for any candidate is not sufficient. In the event that no candidate for a position receives at least a majority of votes of the quorum present and voting, a run-off shall be conducted between the two (2) candidates previously receiving the most votes. If the Board is unable to produce a majority vote for a candidate, no vote is cast by the entity for that elected position.*
 - d. *The secretary of each entity's Board shall record the Board's vote as to each elected position on the ballot.*
 - e. *The selections of each member entity's Board for the elected positions on the ballot cast for that entity shall be registered with the PSBA Credentials Committee by the secretary of each entity's Board.*