



Dear Members of the West Jefferson Hills School District Community:

It is with a great deal of both pride and humility that we serve you and your children as elected volunteers to the West Jefferson Hills Board of School Directors. We are humbled because we recognize that you have entrusted us with the awesome responsibility to govern in a way that ensures that our limited tax dollars meet the needs of all of our precious children. We are proud because we understand, as you do, that we represent a very special community of people. As your representatives, we are working diligently for the benefit of the West Jefferson Hills School District community, the primary focus being your children's success. In order to better serve you and your children, many of our board members are actively involved in related educational activities and organizations that support public education and provide our District with valuable information to benefit our students. Here are a few:

Mrs. Marianne Neel is currently serving as President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, the lead advocacy organization promoting public education across Pennsylvania. As President of this organization, Mrs. Neel is able to share our District students' success stories as well as to build coalitions to address the myriad of educational issues that affect all Pennsylvania students. In fact, in October, our students will be showcased at the Association's Annual Leadership Conference, where they will also be afforded the opportunity to participate in a number of activities to expand their educational experiences.

Mr. Anthony Angotti represents our District serving on the board of the Mon Valley School and Steel Center Area Vocational-Technical School, where he works to ensure that the students of our District who choose to pursue a career and technical education receive a variety of challenging educational opportunities and experiences so that they are able to be successful upon graduation, whether their pursuits be in the workforce, in a post-secondary technical school, or at a university.

Mrs. Carolyn Bourgeois serves our District as the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's legislative representative, keeping our board informed on legislative issues that warrant our action and board development opportunities of which we should avail ourselves. Mrs. Bourgeois also represents our District at, and brings back to us valuable information, from the monthly meetings of the South Hills Area School Districts Association.

Mr. Alan Caponi and Mrs. Anna Lilley serve the District on the Act 32 Committee, which is charged with planning for the implementation of the centralized collection of local earned income tax that will become mandatory under state law in the year 2012. Mrs. Lilley has assumed the additional responsibility of Recording Secretary for the committee.

Mrs. Shauna D'Alessandro represents the District as an elected director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU), which serves not only our District,

but the 42 school districts comprising Allegheny County, by providing cost effective, high quality, leading-edge services to our county school districts and families. She also represents us as a Director at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, where she has actively advocated for our students and taxpayers, meeting with legislators and providing testimony on educational issues that directly affect our children. She was also appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the PA Senate as a member of the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission, which is the independent adjudicatory body acting on the certification of professional educators.

School Districts across the state are being challenged, not only this year, but for several years to come, as a result of the severe budget cuts which will be coming from Harrisburg. These cuts will directly affect the way school districts conduct the business of providing education for Pennsylvania students. The Pennsylvania Constitution requires the General Assembly to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education. To the extent that they fail to provide adequate funding, they kick the can down the road to local school boards, who must now do more with much less. Just as important, legislation that is being proposed by our public officials in Harrisburg has the potential to threaten the long term viability of Pennsylvania's public schools. Vouchers to private and parochial schools, school closures and consolidations, and more unfunded mandates are just a few of the many pieces of legislation that can threaten the continued success of public schools.

Our District will not be unaffected by these financial and legislative issues. In cooperation with Dr. McNamee, our Acting Superintendent, we are working diligently to prepare a balanced budget for the upcoming school year. We pledge to continue to be good stewards of your tax dollars, while providing a quality education for our students. And we will continue to fight the good fight at the state level, in cooperation with our fellow colleagues who serve on school boards in Allegheny County, to preserve our public education system. We fight these battles, not just because we recognize that a strong West Jefferson Hills School District contributes to a vibrant community and strong property values for all of us . . . but because it is the RIGHT thing to do.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

Shauna D'Alessandro, President
 Anthony Angotti, Vice President
 Debbie Pozzycki, Vice President
 Carolyn Bourgeois
 Alan Caponi

Dr. David Graham
 Anna Lilley
 Marianne Neel
 Anthony Rash