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Letters to the Editor: Candidates state their case

To the Editor:

I ask you to vote for me, Doug Blazey, and for my Democratic running mates, Rob Armstrong, Brucie Rapoport and Lydia Solomon, this coming Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009, for the position of director of the Radnor School Board. Voters have a choice between our slate and the slate of our opponents. This competition in ideas and perspective is good for our school system and will result in stronger direction for and oversight of our district and improved education for our children. But this Nov. 3 my team has the stronger credentials, the better ideas and the greater commitment needed now for our children.

When my wife and I returned to the Philadelphia area in 1995 we selected Radnor Township as our home because of the beauty of our township, the generosity and public-spiritedness of its citizens and the excellence of the public-school system. Our two children attended the Radnor public schools and benefited greatly from the excellence of the Radnor school system, and I am determined that others will as well!

My parents both started their professional lives as high-school teachers; so did I. I have also tutored youngsters and served as an adjunct law professor while U.S. EPA regional counsel in New York. I appreciate the hard work that goes into successful teaching and the personal satisfaction that flows from that success. But I also appreciate and understand that having a well-paid, well-benefited and well-secured public-sector job in these troubled times is a great blessing. In these difficult economic times, your board must be able to negotiate openly and fairly with the large group of highly skilled and dedicated individuals employed by our district while simultaneously preserving and even enhancing educational quality and carefully and judiciously deploying our community's finite financial resources in support of its mission.

This task will take good humor, good listening and good problem-solving skills. I have these skills and have demonstrated those characteristics over time. I seek this office to bring more harmony into our community and into our board activities. I intend to be a good listener and to seek to harness, wherever possible, the significant talents found in our citizenry for the benefits of our children and the efficiency of our district. We have many wonderful administrative and academic professionals in our district; challenging them with new energy and insight from the community will only make them stronger and

more effective. I and my running mates are committed to realizing this goal and maintaining Radnor's excellence in education. Please vote for Rob Armstrong, Brucie Rapoport, Lydia Solomon and me on Nov. 3.

Douglas R. Blazey, Democratic Candidate for School Board Director