



Letters to the Editor

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Change the majority in Radnor

To the Editor:

Curriculum. It is the content of what the children are taught, and the manner in which they are taught it. Curriculum is the design of a course, and yet a whole lot more. It is the organic coordination of courses within a school system. Finally, curriculum includes the observation and measurement of its own effectiveness: How well are our children being taught? Are they being taught appropriately and with consistency? The creation, delivery and evaluation of curriculum constitute the most important thing a school district does.

Only professional educators can design, implement and measure a curriculum. Radnor's excellent superintendent, Dr. Linda Grobman, coordinates these core tasks with principals and department chairs, who in turn supervise and nurture our fine teachers. But the school board has responsibilities in this area, too.

The school board is charged under state law making policy decisions about curriculum. Under the Sunshine Law, the board is further charged with conducting open meetings at which members of the community — parents and other taxpayers — can discuss curriculum with the board.

However, Radnor Township's school board oversees the superintendent behind closed doors, and it holds meetings at which community members can never converse with board members. These public meetings have been reduced by the school board's majority from twice per month to once a month, and from two or three hours to little more than one hour.

This pattern of secrecy and non-communication has been created by successive school-board presidents. These presidents — John McMeekin, Kathy Fisher and now Steven Gerber — were elected

by the board majority, their fellow Republicans. You won't see their names on the ballot in 2009. But by voting for even one Republican candidate, you cast a vote for a Republican board president, much as a vote for Curt Weldon (remember him?) was a vote for a Republican Speaker of the House.

A public-school system must be governed publicly. Only by changing the majority can Radnor voters bring open discussion to the creation and evaluation of curriculum.

The primary election is May 19. Unfortunately state law permits the Republican candidates for school board to appear along with the four Democratic candidates on the Democratic ballot. Democrats, you each get four votes. Please vote for the Democrats: incumbent Brucie Rapoport, Lydia Solomon, Douglas Blazey and Rob Armstrong. That's Rob Armstrong, not Sarah. She is a Republican. Rob is the finance expert.

Jan Armon, Radnor