

# Main Line Voices

MAIN LINE SUBURBAN LIFE

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APRIL 8, 2009

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Candidates accept challenge

#### To the Editor:

As candidates for Radnor Township's four seats for Board of School Directors, Brucie Rapoport, Rob Armstrong, Doug Blazey and Lydia Solomon are committed to fiscal discipline and preserving the quality of a Radnor education. This commitment is a challenge given the current economic environment. School districts are facing significant budgetary deficits as revenue from state and federal sources diminishes while at the same time local revenues are under serious stress. Our slate, "Leaders for Radnor Excellence," has the skill set and knowledge to confront this challenge.

A re-evaluation of school expenditures should entail a thoughtful and detailed analysis that eliminates redundancy and waste, and diverts money to areas of higher need. Leadership now requires a reassessment of district practices to ensure that we continue to attract and to retain the finest teachers, make the best use of new technologies and promote a well-rounded curriculum that delivers a superior education. We should develop a series of benchmark metrics, such as our cost per student relative to other school districts of comparable quality. These benchmarks would allow district administrators and Radnor taxpayers the ability to measure and monitor the School District's performance in fiscal matters. The sharing of best practices among local school districts would allow our administrators to be apprised of more efficient ways to manage scarce resources. Consideration should be given to establishing a pool of local school districts that would work together to jointly purchase and share professional expertise, school supplies, books, buses and fuel. Efficient administrative staffing of the School District could include practices such as cross-training and job-sharing to fully utilize the time and talent of the team. Finally, we need to review how we procure outside services. For instance, legal and consulting services could be competitively managed on a flat-fee basis, or consideration could be given to hiring someone to do these services more cost-effectively as an employee of the school district. Other options could include sharing the expense with a neighboring school district, or seeking volunteers from our own township. Our goal is to channel our limited resources toward areas that have a direct impact on students.

A nonpartisan dialogue is required to meet our budget challenges and the spending limits imposed by the legislative formula of Pennsylvania's Act 1 provisions. All members of the Radnor community have an interest in the success of our schools. It is only through a culture of inclusivity and transparency that we can hope to succeed in this economic crisis. Please take the time to vote in both the spring primary on May 19 and the general election on Nov. 3. Speak with your vote!

We seek your support for our "Leaders for Radnor Excellence" campaign.

**Brucie Rapoport, Incumbent**  
**Rob Armstrong**  
**Doug Blazey**  
**Lydia Solomon**