

Candidate for Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Directors

Joseph J. Strauch, BBA, CCP, CDP, FLMI



I offer 46 years of Professional Business Management, Technology and Systems Analysis experience to benefit the District. During my years in MetLife's Information Technology positions, I learned effective ways to employ computer techniques to better manage organizational needs. It is my intention to use these to help Trail identify superior courses of action and make improved decisions.

I have been an Adjunct Instructor at Keystone College specializing in Technology courses for the last ten years. This position avails me the opportunity to share a practical knowledge with my students to prepare them to take advantage of today's technology. It is my hope to bring these same skills to Trail's Board. These include how to properly match District and students' needs to the correct computer equipment and programs to reduce expenditures while improving resource utilization. With ever present budget restraints, this becomes more important every year.

I built my home in the District over 37 years ago because I believed Trail would offer a quality education for my children, and I have not been disappointed. My son, Ken, was a student at Trail many years ago and now has his own limousine business in Scranton. My three daughters, Cecilia, Janine and Allison are currently Honor students at Trail, and it is in their interest that I have become very involved in Board matters.

It was my daughters' activity in the Marching Band that raised my Board Meeting involvement to a higher level. Since the Fall of 2009 I have attended all but two Board meetings. This exposure has given me an insight into the workings of the District and a preparation for the important demands of a Director. I have reviewed numerous documents and Policies of the District and offered observations and suggestions for improvement to the Board. If elected, I promise that I will read and review every word of every proposal that comes up for consideration. With regard to computer related issues, I will apply knowledge gained from over forty-five years in the industry to guarantee that every purchase is evaluated for the highest return on investment. I will continue my efforts to see that as soon as public documents are drafted that they be made easily accessible on the internet to everyone in the District.

On many occasions I have taken the opportunity to present the Board with proposals that would transition to state of the art document management to be environmentally responsible by eliminating a paper oriented philosophy. This would also benefit the District by saving costs involved with supply and storage while improving accessibility without the need for resorting to Open Records Requests. Information would always be at everyone's fingertips.

I recognize the primary responsibility of a Director is to promote public education as a keystone of Democracy, to engage and promote community support by seeking input, building support networks and generating action. To that end I promise to always be available with a quick response to a Trail dedicated e-mail account. All concerns will be answered and used for guidance as a Director. I am prepared to engage in strategic planning, setting policy and evaluating results. I will attend meetings of the PTO, Friends of Music, and all other organizations on campus that would like a direct line to a Board Member. I will initiate direct communications between myself and Teachers, Students, Administrators and Community Members to learn what each needs.

Budgets are of higher than ever concern thanks to threats of Federal and State cutbacks. There is a careful balancing necessary to ensure that all academic interests are guaranteed. It is my belief that these needs are not just the three-Rs, but extend to an education that values and promotes the Humanities and the Arts. Our students' minds need to be stretched in many ways. Resources must never be diverted from these curricular objectives to those that are non-academic. Nor do I believe these resources should be considered limitless: taxpayers must not be overburdened.

I am a supporter of extra-curricular activities for our students as it helps develop their bodies as well as their minds. With three girls active in many sports, I appreciate this District's dedication for those activities. Between softball, Marching Band, Concert Band, Field Hockey, Track, and who knows what's next, there are always ongoing fund raisers. It is our responsibility as parents to support our children in these efforts. With budgeting limitations, this may become more personal than ever. How should these activities be maintained? It is up to the Board to come up with creative solutions and I am prepared to work in that direction if given the opportunity.

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