

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP MONTCO SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES 2021

This document contains information on the nine candidates for School Board Director running in the 2021 primary in Springfield Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The content of the bios was obtained from public information on the internet and is the wording of each of the candidates.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name, and party affiliation is indicated, if known. Candidates who are cross-filed and will appear on both parties' ballots are also identified.

This document in no way endorses any individual candidates and is intended to be a neutral resource for residents of Springfield Township to research the candidates and make their own voting decisions.

What does a School Board do?

- Establishes Policies
- Adopts Annual Budget
- Levies Taxes
- Approves Expenditures
- Sets School Calendar
- Approves Curriculum Changes
- Superintendent, School Board Secretary, and Student Representative serve as non-voting members
- The Solicitor, elected and hired for a stipulated fee by the Board, advises the Board in legal matters and completes various legal activities involving the School District

What Are the Qualifications for School Board Membership?

- Citizen of Pennsylvania
- 18 Years of Age
- School District Resident for One Year Prior to Election
- Term of Office is Four Years

For more information on the SDST School Board, visit www.sdst.org/school-board

Angelina Banks (R - endorsed by Springfield GOP - cross-filed), 37, is a native Philadelphian who grew up in West Mount Airy. Ms. Banks is an experienced operations manager, public relations and marketing coordinator and consultant. She is a proud member of Central High School's 260th graduating class, and served as class representative and reunion chair for over 18 years. In her formative years, she developed a passion for theatrical arts, film and T.V. She invested much of her time refining her craft on stage, on screen and behind the scenes including a production contract with ESPN. After earning her B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University in 2004, she entered the not for profit world to explore a passion for serving and empowering others. During this time, she volunteered at her local library branch in Baltimore, Maryland as a drama coach and taught improvisation classes for the youth and teen programs. Ms. Banks eventually returned to the stage, appearing in various productions in the Los Angeles area. While in Southern California Ms. Banks donated her time serving children in the state's foster program in conjunction with the Foundation of California Community Colleges. In 2015, Ms. Banks returned to the East coast inspired and fueled with

newfound knowledge, perspectives and experiences. Ms. Banks currently resides in Wyndmoor with her small children and family.

Carla Greene (D - endorsed by Springfield Dems) has enjoyed being a part of the Springfield Township community for more than 25 years. She has over 35 years of leadership, consultative, instructional, and hands on experience in education culminating with 14 years as an Elementary School Principal in a neighboring suburban school district. Mrs. Greene continues to mentor future educators by serving as a Supervisor for Gwynedd Mercy University. Carla has combined her results driven and creative attributes with her excellent interpersonal and team building skills to lead many school and district based initiatives such as Character Education, FAST (Families and Schools Together), RTII (Response to Intervention and Instruction) and Peer Mediation. She and her husband are the proud parents of two Springfield graduates, one current 10th grader and one grandchild. Her involvement in support of their activities emphasizes the importance of developing excellence in academics as well as active participation in the arts, athletics and school-based activities. Carla believes that all children should have equitable opportunities to learn, excel, and contribute responsibly. To this end, serving on the School Board will allow her the opportunity to support all stakeholders in bringing the District's Mission to fruition.

Ann Gozzard (D - cross-filed) I have enjoyed living in Springfield Township with my husband Mike and 3 children for 25 wonderful years. My two oldest children are STSD graduates and my youngest is currently a Senior. I have been a very active district volunteer for the last 19 years, serving as activities coordinators, athletic booster leader, and as parent representative on many administrative councils. I have 31 years of teaching experience. I have taught in the Philadelphia Catholic and Public-School systems and have spent the last 23 years as a teacher in Radnor Township School District. In Radnor, I am a member of the district's curriculum committee, Responsive Classroom team, serve as a case manager on the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support team, and am an active member of the Principal's Leadership Cabinet. My colleagues would say I am a good listener, problem solver, team player and a compassionate and inclusive teacher. I work tirelessly to create an inclusive classroom that addresses all learning styles of my students. I continue growing as an educator by mentoring future teachers from area universities and serving as an Adjunct Professor of Education at Drexel University. I received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and English from Moravian College and my Master's in Educational Leadership from St. Joseph's University. I hold Pennsylvania certifications in Elementary Education, Curriculum Supervision and as an Elementary Principal. I have spent my entire career teaching the "whole-child", making their developmental and personal needs a priority, so successful learning can occur. I believe that our children should expect to attend schools that provide a kind, nurturing, and inclusive environment that allows curious students to explore their interests through the arts, clubs, and sports. As an elected member of School Board, I will support the District's mission; to educate children to be resilient, responsible, and high achieving learners who graduate and set out to change our community. I will support initiatives that keep children and teachers in school safely. I will improve School Board transparency by including community stakeholders in brainstorming and problem solving. Finally, I will be a visible and active member of the board, serving the community that elects me.

Amy Hubley (D - endorsed by Springfield Dems - cross-filed) has been a lifelong resident of Springfield Township and is a graduate of Springfield Township High School Class of 1991. Amy is the

mother of two current Springfield Township School District students. Amy has been a volunteer in the school district for the past 11 years and currently serves as the Vice President of the Secondary Home and School Partnership. Amy is a graduate of Cabrini College where she received her BS in Elementary Education and she earned her MS in Counseling and Human Relations from Villanova University. Amy has worked in education for over 20 years at Ancillae Assumpta Academy where she currently serves as the School Counselor, Resource Learning Coordinator and is a member of the Leadership Team. Amy aspires to join the School Board to continue the District's initiative to create a culture of inclusivity, where all students have a sense of belonging including promoting equitable practices throughout the district community and to provide all students with an educational program that meets their needs and enables them to be empowered members of the community.

Sara Hughes (D - endorsed by Springfield Dems) has lived in Springfield Township for 8 years and is a parent to an elementary school student. She also serves on the board of Enfield-Erdenheim Home School Partnership (EEHSP) and as an advisory member of the Township Parks and Recreation Committee. For over 20 years she has worked in the Philadelphia area as a resource mobilizer, connecting artists and community organizers working for racial justice to the resources they need to move their work forward. She does this through fundraising, building administrative and operations processes, and weaving strong webs of relationships between individuals and organizations for the collective thriving of marginalized communities. She currently works as the Deputy Director at BlackStar, an organization that uplifts the work of Black, Brown and Indigenous artists. Her previous positions have included working as the Program Director at the Leeway Foundation, a Social Media Specialist at the American Friends Service Committee and as the Development & Communications Director at Bread & Roses Community Fund.

My name is **Bob Lynch (R - endorsed by Springfield GOP - cross-filed)** and I am running for the school board. I have lived in the Township for 23 years. I had 2 children that spent 12 years in the schools and now have grandchildren doing the same. I want to be a voice for the parents and make sure that we all have transparency between the people and the board. Thank You.

Michael J. McCusker (O - Unaffiliated with either party - not cross-filed, only appearing on the D ballot) I have been a resident of Springfield Township for 14 wonderful years with my wife Kristin. During that time, I have grown to love this community and would like to do my part to support the SDST parents and teachers as best I can if elected. My wife and I decided to raise our family here because of the school district and the small town feel that Springfield offered. Our first child Michal was born In 2008 and is now a 6th grader at Springfield middle school. Connor came along In 2011 and is now a 4th grader at Erdenheim. Then, in 2013 we decided to become foster parents and ultimately adopted our daughter Keilee, who is now an energetic 2nd grader at Enfield. We have a very busy house! I grew up In the Lawncrest section of Philadelphia and graduated Saint Joseph's University in 2000. I have spent the last 21 years In the Food Industry at varying levels of sales management. I have done everything from working in supermarkets to managing teams upward of twenty direct reports that spanned the country. Most recently, I am a senior director of sales at my current company. I have been a very active member of the Springfield community, especially through its many athletic programs. Chances are, that if your son or daughter is around the ages of my children I may have coached your child at one point or another if they participated. I believe a good coach can help build confidence in their team and show them how to be supportive teammates and friends.

Demonstrating to them that their collective efforts can achieve much more than one individual is another lesson that I do my best to drive home. I plan to bring that same spirit of teamwork to the school board. I will be a visible, collaborative, and active member of the board. My door will always be open to those in the SDST community as I believe we will always achieve more working together. If elected, I will do my best to champion the SDST mission; to educate and develop all students as learners and citizens who are high achieving, resilient, and responsible. I am not endorsed, nor have I sought any political party's endorsement. I will be beholden to the SDST community and make sure EVERYONE feels they have a voice.

Maryellen Reeves (R - endorsed by Springfield GOP - cross-filed) is a life long resident of Montgomery County, PA and has lived in Springfield Township for the past five years. She believes the school board is tasked with the responsibility along with educators to maintain high academic standards, transparency, and accountability to students and their parents. Maryellen was proudly educated in the public school system from grades K-12 and received a BA from Penn State University. She started her career working for a professional services organization but has spent the past two decades in the pharmaceutical industry. She is an active member of her church and has taught religious education to children 8 through 12 years of age for over 5 years.

Dr. Karen Taratuski (D - incumbent - endorsed by Springfield Dems - cross-filed) has been a resident of Springfield Township since 1997. When looking for a community in which to live, she and her wife Kim chose Springfield in large part for the quality of schools. Karen holds a Bachelor of Music from Immaculata University, a Master of Education from Temple University and a Doctorate of Clinical Psychology from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was elected to the School Board in 2013. Karen brings the multiple perspectives of a parent, a psychologist, educator, and active community member to the work of the board. She has served as Board President and has been a proponent of the district's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She believes that strong schools are the foundation of our community. Karen seeks to continue to serve on the board to ensure our children are provided a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential.

Katherine Trinkle (R - endorsed by Springfield GOP) was raised in the Logan section of Philadelphia and attended W.B.Saul High School of Agriculture in Roxborough. She has been employed as a Registered nurse for the past 40 years in various areas of direct personal care, oncology, management and home care. She is married with 2 grown children who graduated from the Springfield School System. She is also a Grandmom to 2 with one on the way. Katherine has been a resident of Springfield Township for 24 years. Spending time with family and friends, reading and hunting for bargains in thrift stores are just a few of the things she loves to do. She is an active member of Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church where she is an officer of the church. Katherine strives to make a difference in the community with The Living Nativity and Vacation Bible School that Oreland EPC holds each year. She feels she would be a welcome addition to the school Board of Springfield Township by listening to the parents and the children's concerns, especially during these times of great change in our community and country.
