

Kids can't vote...  
**BUT YOU CAN**



## **2011 District 4 School Board Voter Guide**

The Facts You Need to Vote  
For School Board on May 17!



*A+ Schools is a nonpartisan organization. We do not support or endorse any specific candidate. Our goal is to educate the community and promote increased participation in school board elections.*

# District 4 School Board Candidate; Elected for a 4-Year Term with No Term Limits

On May 17, voters will choose School Board directors from a field of candidates. A+ Schools has asked the candidates to help voters decide by answering a few questions. Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 are up for reelection in 2011. Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 will be up for reelection in 2013. A+ Schools neither supports nor endorses any specific candidate.

Every candidate was sent the same questionnaire and given an opportunity to respond. A+ Schools neither edits material submitted nor changes spelling, punctuation or grammar. All candidates were asked to limit their response to 75 words or less.

## Meet the Candidate:



### William Isler

- School Board Director since 1999
- Resides in Squirrel Hill
- Cross-filed as both Democrat and Republican
- Running unopposed

**What are your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek?**

My passion for public education supports the Superintendent's role as the educational leader for the District. As a Board, we need to recognize that our role is that of policy and we have the fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of the City.

**Please describe your strengths in at least 1 of the 5 A+ Schools indicators of effective governance: focus and mission, transparency, conduct, competency or role clarity.**

These indicators of effective governance cannot be separated. I focused on the mission of the Pittsburgh Public Schools the day I became a Board Member. It is the basis of all of our work. We try to make all of our work available via public meetings, our website, and all media sources. My work in the Early Childhood Education field and in the Pennsylvania Department of Education helps me focus on competency and clarity.

**What do you believe to be the role of the School Board as it relates to how the district operates and how do you plan to uphold this role, if elected?**

The Board hires the Superintendent and works with the Administrative Team to achieve the Board's goals. We govern by the District Board Policies and always focus on our Board goals which are reviewed and revised annually, if necessary. Again, this is done in partnership with the Superintendent and the academic leaders for the District. I believe in policy governance and will continue to work with my colleagues on the Board to achieve our goals.

**What do you believe to be the most critical issue facing the Pittsburgh Public School District and, if elected to the board, what specific actions will you take to address it?**

We are facing reduced revenue and increased demands to fulfill our mission to educate all students to their highest level of achievement. Working with the District administrator and State officials, we need to realistically do everything we can for all students. It will not be an easy task, but together we can achieve Excellence for All and that includes working with The Pittsburgh Promise so that the Promise can be fully funded.

**In the upcoming months, the school district could lose many millions of dollars in state funding. If you were elected to the Board, what would be your course of action to address a large funding cut from the state?**

Work closely with the Administration of the District in deciding how best we can maintain the academic programs we have and continue on our commitment of excellence for all students. The Superintendent is already showing leadership in reducing the budget and we must be willing to work with her to accomplish our goals within a realistic budget.

# More Information

## What is a School Board?

- The Pittsburgh Board of Education (School Board) is an elected body made up of nine directors who represent different areas within the City of Pittsburgh.
- Your School Board Director is the person elected to represent your district on the School Board.

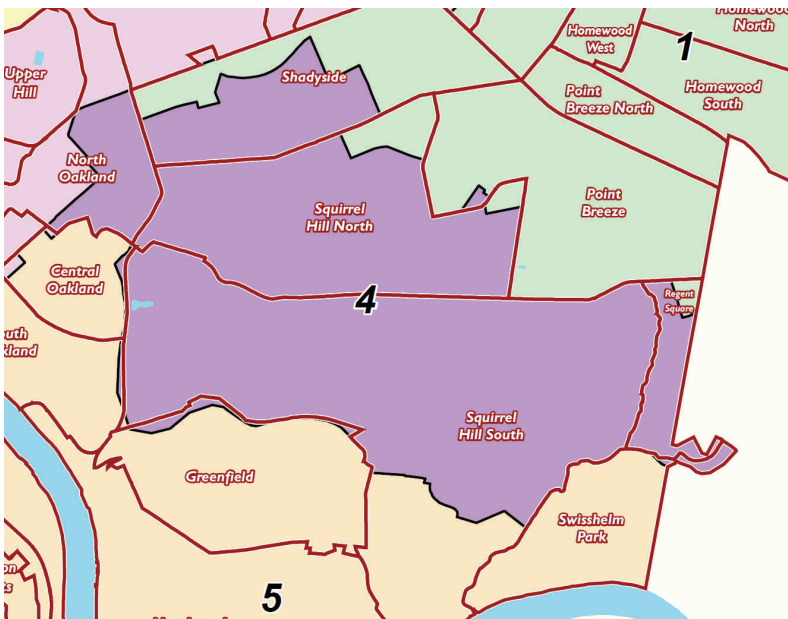
## What Does the School Board Do?

- School Board directors make decisions that impact every aspect of a child's education. They hire and evaluate the superintendent, decide which programs stay or go, which schools stay open or closed, how students will get to school and what they are taught.
- The School Board oversees the spending of your tax dollars. Currently, two-thirds of your wage taxes and over half of your local real estate taxes support the school district.

## When and Where do I Vote?

- The primary election is May 17.
- Confirm you're registered or find your polling place by visiting [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or calling the Allegheny Department of Elections at 412-350-4150.
- On Election Day, you can also call 1-877-OUR-VOTE (1-877-687-8683) to find your polling place.

## Where is District 4?



Area(s) of the City:

East Pittsburgh

Neighborhoods:

Partial Neighborhood:

North Oakland  
Shadyside  
Squirrel Hill North  
Squirrel Hill South  
Regent Square

Schools:

Schools:  
Liberty K-5  
Colfax K-8  
Alderdice 9-12

## About A+ Schools

A+ Schools is an independent community advocate for improvement in public education. Our purpose is to be a community force advancing the highest educational achievement and character development for every public school student. One of the ways we can make sure that happens is by having a well informed public that votes in EVERY school board election. Our work is nonpartisan. We do not endorse or support any specific candidate.

**26,000 PITTSBURGH STUDENTS  
ARE DEPENDING ON YOUR VOTE!**

