

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



## **2011 District 6 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 6 School Board Candidates

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.

## Meet the Candidates:

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

**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.**

**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?**



### **Sherry Hazuda**

- School Board Director since 2007
- Contract Specialist, BioTronics Inc.
- Resides in Beechview
- Cross-filed as both Democrat and Republican

My training and experiences at Verizon, as well as the education I received from Robert Morris University, in conjunction with my life as a single mother raising four children, has given me a unique perspective. I try to be open-minded in situations, preferring to hear benefits as well as challenges prior to making a decision. Generally I am patient when dealing with others who I try to treat with respect.

Being a believer in Reform Governance, I am willing to learn more so that I can be a more effective representative. My strength is in my attitude as well as my aptitude. I took the lead to re-align our meeting schedule so that the Public Hearing takes place between Agenda Review and the Legislative meeting. This gives all of our stakeholders an opportunity to speak out on the issues we are voting on each month.

The role of the School Board is to govern. We do this by setting a vision, establishing Core Beliefs, creating and revising Policy, and working with the superintendent to accomplish our goals. Our biggest challenge is to govern, rather than manage. Many constituents expect us to intervene on their behalf in the daily operation of the District. I will continue to try to help others understand this even though they often get frustrated with me.

Photo Not Provided

### **Lisa Jones**

- Teacher, Carrick High School
- Resides in Beechview
- Cross-filed as both Democrat and Republican

My fifteen years of teaching experience in the Pittsburgh Public School system will be an asset to the School Board. As a current teacher, I will be able to determine how effective the board policy decisions are in the classroom. I will share my insight with the board. I am passionate about the students receiving a quality education that meets their needs. I am willing to listen to other people's perspective and experience.

I am a professional and work with the public on a daily basis as a teacher. I am respectful of others' opinion. As a former engineer, all decisions I made were based upon research, data, and best practices. I am experienced in time management and providing services within a budget.

I believe the role of the School board is to set educational goals, policies to reach these goals, and create a budget that is effective in attaining these goals. As a board member, my responsibility is to use the taxpayers money efficiently in providing educational opportunities for our children.

# Elected for a 4-Year Term with No Term Limits

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. Candidates for each School Board district are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

**If elected, in what policy area will you show the most leadership and how do you intend to do so?**

**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?**

**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?**

**Sherry Hazuda**  
*(continued)*

One of the areas I am focused on is accountability. Beginning with our students and their families through our teachers, support personnel, administration and finally with the Board, we must all do the best we can to insure our students succeed. We must eliminate finger-pointing and blame. One partial solution is through communication. I intend to continue attending events throughout the district. These help me to understand the concerns of both parents and employees.

Our most critical issue is the effect of the budget cuts on education reform. How do we show fiscal responsibility while maintaining a focus on improvement? We can eliminate all the extra programs we've added, take away 55 pre-school classes and drop all those expensive after-school programs. Sure, we can do that. How then will we educate our students who need us the most? I can't be specific. I don't know the answer.

There is no simple answer. Everyone will lose something. I will continue to work with Dr. Lane as we systematically review every aspect of our finances. The impact of the proposed state budget is a problem that can't be underestimated. Balancing finances with reform to insure we continue our forward movement is a challenge that we can't lose. Our children must be educated and Excellence for All must be a reality, not a slogan.

**Lisa Jones**  
*(continued)*

I am an educator who has worked in the District for fifteen years. I have the unique perspective of witnessing and experiencing the impact of school policies in the classroom on a daily basis. I will be able to provide leadership and understanding to my fellow Board members about how their decisions may impact students. I have served on a curriculum reform and leadership committee.

The most critical issue facing the Pittsburgh Public School District is meeting the educational attainment goals within a limited budget. I will, therefore, focus educational dollars into the classroom where it impacts the students most.

Focus educational dollars into the classroom where it impacts the students most.

# 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.

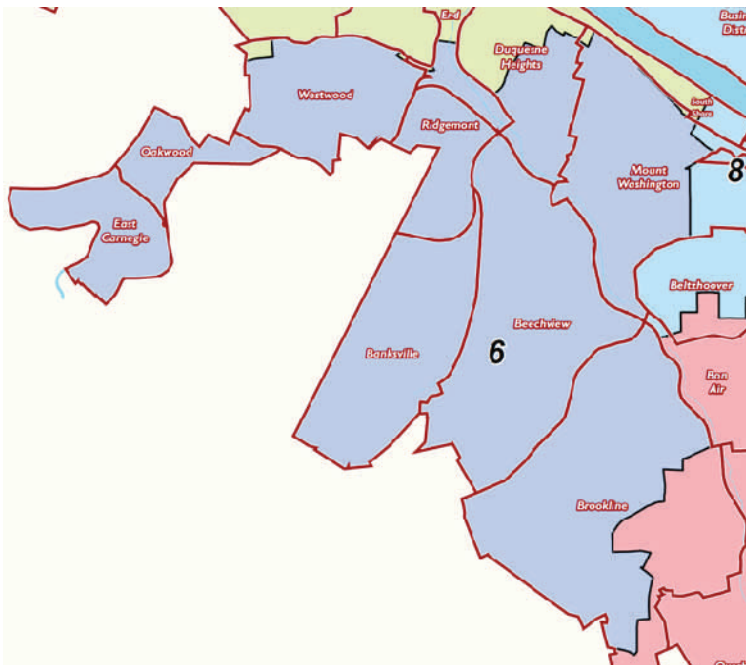
## What Does the School Board Do?

- 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 6?



Area(s) of the City:

South Pittsburgh

### Neighborhoods:

#### Whole Neighborhoods:

East Carnegie  
Oakwood  
Westwood  
Ridgmont  
Banksville  
Beechview

#### Partial Neighborhood:

Brookline  
West End  
Duquesne Heights  
Mount Washington

### Schools:

#### Schools:

Westwood K-8  
West Liberty K-5  
Whittier K-5  
Beechwood PK-5  
Brookline K-8  
Banksville K-8  
South Hills 6-8  
South Brook 6-8  
Brashear 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!**

