

# School Board News



General Election, November 3, 2009



## *News about Candidates for the West Chester Area School District*

You are probably painfully aware of the 5.9% property tax increase that the current school board voted upon in May. Combined with last year's increase, the taxpayers have had to absorb almost 13% in tax increases over the last two years. Delaware County residents were hit even harder, with a 9.4% tax increase this year and 9.0% last year, a whopping total of over 18% in two years.

Adding insult to injury, the current school board also voted to raise teachers' salaries almost 9% over the next two years. That just didn't make sense in these perilous economic times, with unemployment rising, employees being laid off, and businesses downsizing or closing. It also proved to be extremely short sighted: Many parents can no longer afford the tuition for private/parochial school and have enrolled their children in our public schools, resulting in overcrowded classes and buses, with shortages of textbooks. Because of the teachers' salary hike, there is now no money to hire more teachers to relieve the overcrowding in the classroom.

Candidates Heidi Adsett, Sean Carpenter, Maria Pimley, and John Wingerter have posted a response to both these Board actions on their website:

[www.Vote4GreatSchools.com](http://www.Vote4GreatSchools.com)



School Board Candidates Heidi Adsett, John Wingerter, Maria Pimley, and Sean Carpenter

**We asked each of the candidates: "What assets would you bring to School Board?"**

**Heidi Adsett:** My main strength is that I am a team player. I have many years of experience in the corporate world running meetings where my goal was to ensure that every attendee left each meeting feeling that they were heard and valued. That is a critical asset for school board members. We need to really listen to and value the position of each person involved in the system, whether it be the other school board members, the teachers, the students, the parents or the taxpayers. This school district is all of ours, not just run by a few. When we start working together, then our energy can be put towards what really matters, the students.



The Adsett family

**Sean Carpenter:** As a former small business owner, I fully understand what it means to balance a budget and to run a successful operation. I understand that we need to be setting measurable goals and provide mechanisms to gauge success. In my current role as Director of Information Technology for a small business in Collegeville, I understand the need to work as a team with my peers and to encourage dialogue across disparate groups. I will approach the School Board with the same level of professionalism and with the same dedication to constant improvement, as I do in my professional and private life.

**Dr. Maria Pimley:** “I will bring the needed perspective of an involved parent who interacts with students, teachers, staff and other parents on a daily basis. This will allow me to both recognize the strengths and realize the needs of our school district. I will listen to all the voices that contribute to our schools in order to solve problems, evaluate programs, and continue to make the West Chester school district great. Having successfully and enthusiastically served as a healthcare provider for 17 years, I possess the passion and dedication to serve the children, parents, educators and taxpayers of West Chester.”



Den leader Maria Pimley with  
Cub Scouts

**Dr. John Wingerter:** “My role as a teacher, high school principal, superintendent of schools, university professor and assistant dean has afforded me the much needed experience to serve as a Board member. I was actively involved in decisions regarding curricula, professional development, contract negotiations, a 50 million dollar budget, personnel, building renovations and new construction, all of which remain as crucial concerns today for the West Chester Area School District.”

***Polls will be open  
Tuesday, November 3,  
from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm***

## **Excerpts: Candidates Promote Long-Term Health of School District**

*(complete response at [www.Vote4GreatSchools.com](http://www.Vote4GreatSchools.com))*

“Candidates Adsett, Carpenter, Pimley, and Wingerter will strive to leave the District in a better position — fiscally, academically, and physically—than when we arrived. We will always look toward the long-term ramifications of our decisions and make choices that leave incoming Boards with the advantage of flexibility in deciding which direction to take. Unfortunately, some recent decisions by our current West Chester school board leave us with reservations that they are doing the same.”

“This Board was not equipped to handle the sudden and sharp economic downturn for the same reason that many families are struggling; their debt is too high, and their savings too low.”

“We were troubled once again in seeing the agreement reached on June 15 between the Board and the teachers union. The Board looked at the short-term benefits of providing good raises yet ignored the long-term consequence if our economic slump continues. The ramifications in this economy may include increasing class size, cutting educational programs, or reducing staff development, all of which put at risk our ability to attract and retain quality teachers, whom we recognize as vital to the continued success of our District.”

“We believe that implementing good policies on limiting debt and maintaining healthy reserves is necessary in good times and bad, and we pledge to abide by them.”

“All of this was from a historical lack of due diligence in examining the budget and from spending outside of our means.”

I would like to help elect the endorsed Republican Candidates to the West Chester Area School Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

I will volunteer to work in my precinct before the election.

Please send me a yard sign for the endorsed Republican candidates.

I will work at my poll on election day for the Republican team. My polling place is \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate to the endorsed Republican candidates.

*Please make check out to: "Vote 4 Great Schools"*

*Send to: P.O. Box 571*

**West Chester, PA 19381**

Paid for by Vote 4 Great Schools