



ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Election 2025

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) provides an array of high-quality, cost-effective educational services and supports for learners of all ages in Allegheny County. The AIU is one of the largest of the Commonwealth's 29 intermediate units and is led by a 13-member board elected by the school directors from the 42 suburban school districts in the county.

Seven candidates from AIU-member district school boards have submitted the required documentation for candidacy for five, three-year board positions, extending from July 2025 to June 2028. AIU Board members are responsible to all suburban school districts in Allegheny County; therefore, the 378 school directors from these districts are eligible to elect candidates to the AIU board.

The following bios and photos (listed alphabetically) were submitted by each candidate.



LIBBY BLACKBURN – North Allegheny School District

I am writing to express my keen interest in serving on the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Board and to formally announce my candidacy. For the past 13 years, I have served on the North Allegheny School Board, demonstrating a consistent commitment to our community and a deep understanding of educational governance. This experience has equipped me with the skills necessary to contribute effectively to the AIU.

My priorities for the AIU Board include:

- **Supporting Student Success:** My focus will be on upholding the AIU's values and supporting initiatives that create a lasting positive impact on students.
- **Fiscally Responsible Decision-Making:** I am dedicated to maximizing resources and implementing cost-effective solutions to ensure every dollar is invested wisely for the benefit of all stakeholders. I want all stakeholders to be assured that your money is being used in the most efficient way possible.
- **Transparency and Collaboration:** I believe in fostering open communication and collaborative partnerships to drive meaningful progress

I am a lifelong resident of Allegheny County and have a deep-rooted commitment to education. My educational background includes attending North Allegheny, Bucknell University, and Kenyon College. I am also a parent of 25-year-old twins and have been happily married for 31 years. I am passionate about the education of our children and believe they are our most valuable assets. I am confident that my experience and dedication will make me a valuable asset to the AIU Board. I would be honored to receive your support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Meet the Candidates • AIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 ELECTION



EDWARD BROSKY – Chartiers Valley School District

I am excited to apply my diverse professional experience to support the AIU, fostering effective leadership and responsible resource management to benefit our member districts and strengthen our community.

I am eager to serve on the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors because I am deeply committed to fostering leadership, mentorship, and personal development in young people. With over 30 years of experience in coaching and mentoring athletes at various levels, as well as a child care specialist, I understand the profound impact that strong guidance and structured programs can have on individuals and communities. My experience in child development, and team leadership has prepared me to contribute meaningfully to the board's mission. I am passionate about ensuring that students across Allegheny County have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to succeed both academically and personally. By serving on the board, I hope to bring my leadership skills, strategic planning experience, and dedication to youth development to help shape policies and initiatives that benefit students, educators, and families.

Chartiers Valley School Board of Directors since 2023.

Education

University of Pittsburgh

University of Wyoming



FRANK CORTAZZO – South Allegheny School District

I am writing to express my interest in continuing my service on the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors. With over twenty years of experience as an elected official, including my current position as a school director for the South Allegheny School District, I regard education as a vital responsibility for shaping our children's futures.

My tenure on the AIU Board has provided valuable insights into the education sector, particularly in special education and workforce development. I have collaborated closely with a diverse group of professionals, which has deepened my understanding of the unique needs of educators and students.

In June 2024, I completed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion certificate program at Duquesne University to enhance further my capacity to contribute to our educational system. Additionally, I am pursuing a Master's in Educational Administration (K-12) from Duquesne University, with an expected graduation in May 2025.

I strongly advocate for equitable educational opportunities for all learners, which aligns with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's mission to provide quality education, foster innovation, and promote excellence. I believe that collaboration and evidence-based practices are essential for driving meaningful progress.

I respectfully request your vote for my re-election to the AIU Board. My extensive experience and commitment to lifelong learning will greatly contribute to the success of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. I appreciate your consideration.



DONEIKA GRIFFIN – Woodland Hills School District

Doneika Griffin holds a Master of Science in Health Care Administration and Management from Point Park University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Robert Morris University. She is a certified Project Management Professional and holds a Lean Six Sigma Yellow Certification. Additionally, she is a Practitioner of Human Centered Design from the LUMA Institute, a SaFe DevOps Practitioner, and holds a PA License Resident Product (Accident, Life, Health, and Variable Annuities).

Doneika has a rich background in community service. She has participated in the Reading Across America program with elementary students, volunteered at the local food bank, attended borough meetings, and supported community members in finding their local boroughs. She has also been involved in annual toy drive collections and is considering becoming a mentor for the Big Brother and Big Sister program.

Doneika is a dedicated mother of two children who are part of the Woodland Hills School District, with one attending Forbes Road Career & Technical Center. She is also a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority where she has held several leadership positions including Chairwoman for the organization's annual scholarship program, and corporate partnerships.

Doneika's main vision is to support and uphold the AIU's mission by advocating for the community to ensure educational resources are accessible. She aims to inspire more leaders to get involved in building a strong community and supporting educators. Doneika is committed to ensuring that all district partners can trust the AIU board to be respectable and fair in all decisions and plans to utilize principles and experience gained as an AIU board member to continue to share the future education at Woodland Hills School District.



DAVID SCHAAP – Brentwood Borough School District

David Schaap has been a school board director for the Brentwood Borough School District for 19 years. As a representative of Brentwood's School Board, Schaap has served on the board of directors for Steel Center Career and Technical School for 18 years and is currently president of the board, and the Mon Valley Area Special School District for 18 years and much of that as president. The last nine years, Schaap has been an elected member of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, having served as treasurer, vice-president, and as president. Schaap also served as president of PSBA in 2023, having been elected by schools across Pennsylvania.

Schaap is president and founder of Selah Publishing Co., an internationally known publisher of church music, founded in 1988. Schaap is also organist/choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pa. His undergraduate studies were at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., with a double major in music (composition and arranging) and art (sculpture). Schaap has led workshops, plenaries, hymn festivals, and reading sessions for national and regional meetings throughout the United States. He is married to Virginia, a musician and retired educator, and his three children graduated from Brentwood Borough High School. His youngest son is now serving as a teacher in Head Start.

The AIU serves an important role for all the school districts in Allegheny County, and it is an effective advocate for education and innovation, supporting districts in all areas of education, as well as supporting children throughout all stages of learning and their challenges. I always work to understand the history, the obstacles, and the successes, and do the research and ask questions to be prepared for the meetings. I push to focus on the long-term health of each organization, helping them to thoughtfully plan for the future. I would continue to do so for the AIU and I will show up and do the work.

Meet the Candidates • AIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 ELECTION



DAVID M. SEROPIAN – McKeesport Area School District

David worked as a Business Manager in PA school districts for nearly 33 years until retiring from the McKeesport Area School District in 2018. At that time he started his own financial consulting business. Since 2018 he has successfully provided professional financial management services to several school districts including McKeesport Area, Moon Area, Chartiers Valley, Riverview, Highlands, Leechburg and Duquesne City School District. In March 2024 David joined MGI Risk Management, serving as Vice-President.

David graduated in 1982 from Thiel College with a degree in Business Administration. His career-long dedication to financial management spans over 38 years.

David was elected to the McKeesport Area School Board in 2023 and dedicates himself to representing his district with professionalism and integrity. He chairs the district's Finance Committee and also serves on the Buildings & Grounds Committee and the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation Committee. David enjoyed coaching youth baseball and basketball for many years and stays active volunteering in the community.

I would like to bring my knowledge of school districts to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors. My experience provides me with valuable insights on the needs districts have for services and other support provided by the AIU. I would work collaboratively with all other members of the Board in serving the AIU staff to function successfully as an entity as well as in its services to our districts.



BOB SHAGES – Hampton Township School District

Bob Shages is a current member of the AIU Board having first been elected in 2016 after serving several months being appointed by the AIU Board. He is currently serving his second term as the AIU Board Treasurer.

Bob is also the President of the AIU's Head Start/Early Head Start Governing Board overseeing this extensive early education program throughout Allegheny County. He has led children's book drives collecting over 3000 books to be used in Head Start classrooms and Family Centers as well as being disturbed to parents so they have books at home to read to their children.

As a member of the Hampton Township School District Board since 2003, he has served HTSD as Board President for 3 years as well as chairing most committees. For 6 years he has been elected the Board Treasurer and continues as the Chair of the Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee. In the past, he was the PSBA District Representative for a section of SW PA.

Outside of his educational activities, Bob is retired from General Electric Company serving in management roles in Engineering, Sales, Marketing and Process Improvement. He is a Certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt. Currently he continues with GE as a Consultant on Government Business for their industrial products.

I look at my work on the AIU Board as one where I have contributed to the success of 42 Districts as well as learning of the challenges each is experiencing and how AIU services can help address them with the expansion of innovative programs, cooperative services and best practice sharing.



ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

475 East Waterfront Drive | Homestead, PA 15120

412-394-5700 | Fx: 412-394-5706 | aiu3.net

Serving Learners in all 42 Suburban School Districts in Allegheny County