

# 4 candidates to change makeup of Daniel Boone Area School Board

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With four incumbents not running for re-election, four candidates in three regions are likely to gain seats on the Daniel Boone Area School Board in the current election cycle.

Three of those candidates are members of the Daniel Boone Taxpayer Activists group.

School board terms expire this year for Frank Cerminaro, Scott Potts, Walter P. Sheehan, and Michael D. Wolfe, and none of them are seeking re-election.

Carol Beitz, Suzanne Dungan, and Richard Martino have all tossed their hats into the ring.

The fourth candidate, Steve Miller, Douglassville, is a write-in candidate and is running against Martino in Region 1.

Martino, 67, has resided at 225 W. Welsh Drive, Douglassville, for 10 years.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, he and his wife, Judi, moved here from Exton, Chester County, and live with their stepdaughter, Brittany Wadsworth and her daughter, Cameron, age 4.

Martino is retired now from managing 130 U.S. Postal Service offices in parts of Chester, Bucks, and Montgomery counties.

"I managed multi-million dollar budgets for the U.S. Postal Service," said Martino, adding, "I was an efficiency expert in an inefficient organization."

Martino has been co-chair of the Daniel Boone Taxpayer Activists since 2012.

The DBTA was previously known as the Daniel Boone Taxpayers Association.

According to the DBTA website, the association "remains, principally, a cyber-organization and a forum to allow those in the Daniel Boone School District to be informed and to share information about the ever-escalating property taxes that fund our local schools. It also provides an interactive information exchange about an alternative means to more equitably and effectively provide for the education of our children at the state and local level; namely H.B. 1776 and S.B. 1400 – The Property Tax Independence Act."

"I was a member when David H. Robbins was superintendent but stopped going out of frustration because they never paid attention to us," said Martino.

In 2011, Martino and Co-Chair David Pool purged the e-mail list for the then cyber organization of several hundred members and renamed the association.

Martino said the DBTA now has about 150 active members and is also a member of the Pennsylvania Taxpayers Coalition, which has 80 groups.

"I feel the school board over the last 10 years has spent money foolishly and put us into this situation of \$93 million in debt -- and forcing us to choose between curricular and extra curricular activities.

"I feel with my experiencing managing budgets that I can help the board do a better job forecasting what needs to be spent and what doesn't."

Martino said his previous political experience includes working the polls for State Rep. Sam Rohrer (R-128th) in the last primary election and in 2011 for the governor seat against Gov. Tom Corbett.

Suzanne Dungan, 74, has resided at 4 Galahad Lane, Birdsboro, for the last 22 years with her husband Albert, and is running in Region 3.

She and Albert recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and have six children together: Michael, age 50; Christine, age 48, and Denise, 42, as well as Suzanne's three step children, Wendy, age 55; Kim, age 53, and Brad, age 40.

A licensed real estate agent since 1997, Dungan sells real estate for Re-Max of Reading and also owns the custom building business, Galahad Corp., that she started in 1987.

In 1998, Dungan won an historic rehabilitation award for the work she completed at 701 N. 5th Street, Reading.

She is active with the Berks County Patriots and its efforts to eliminate property taxes.

When asked why she is running for a seat on the school board, Dungan replied:

"Because the Daniel Boone School District -- like all school districts in Pennsylvania -- is facing dire financial problems and I feel perhaps I can make a difference by eliminating waste -- and running it more efficiently so we do not harm students or teachers. Primary goal is education and our children deserve the best education we can give them."

Carol Beitz, 53, lives at 19 Pine Forge Road, Douglassville, since 1998, and is running in Region 2.

Beitz grew up in Montgomery County, and recently retired from teaching at Immaculate Conception Academy, Douglassville.

She was technology coordinator for the last seven years and is currently looking for small business consulting work while volunteering at Immaculate Conception Academy, Douglassville, with the transition of the new technology coordinator.

Beitz and her husband, Robert, have two children, Robby, age 16, who attends Daniel Boone High School, and their son, Michael, age 13, who attends Immaculate Conception.

"In my own humble way, I want to see if I can make a difference," said Beitz.

"I would like to incorporate my vast business background and incorporate some efficiency from a manager's point of view with the goal of improving the product, which is the education system."

She said a long term spending plan and accountability for every dollar spent are important.

Before Immaculate Conception she was self employed as a small business consultant. After college she had worked at Shared Medical Systems, Malvern.

"I lean fiscally conservative -- spend money where have to."