

SCHOOL BOARD MEET & GREET

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Three seats are opening up on the Bedford Public Schools Board of Education and four township residents have entered their names into the race.

Those running for reelection include current board vice president Dr. Timothy Brakel and current board trustee Joe Gore. Current trust-

► More — Page 23

ee Lisa Beins-McCaig also is hoping to retain her seat on the board. She was appointed in 2013 after Shawna Smith resigned citing health reasons.

Local businessman Todd Bruning is hoping to unseat one of the before-mentioned candidates to begin his first term serving BPS.

If elected, each of the three trustees will serve

four-year terms.

The Bedford Parent-Teacher Association Council hosted a meet-and-greet with candidates on Oct. 16 at the Bedford Branch Library. After each candidate was given a chance to introduce himself or herself, community members were able to ask questions of each candidate to hear about priorities for Bedford Schools.

DR. TIMOTHY BRAKEL

Address: 8420 Wolverine Rd., Temperance

Occupation, employer: Associate professor of music education, University of Toledo

Public offices held or sought: Bedford school board, 2005-present

Fun Fact: Dr. Brakel is currently the longest serving member of the Bedford Public Schools Board of Education.

Greatest Importance: Dr. Brakel said his priority if reelected is student academic achievement. Hard financial times, he said, have taken the dis-

tracts attention away from professional development of teachers and focus on ever-changing trends for education.

"There are two components that we need to push forward. The first is the continued out-rol of our technology, because we know technology is going to continue to impact education and we know some students learn more effectively using education," he said. "I also believe in excellence from our teaching and learning staff. We need to attract the highest, qualified candidates."



DR. TIMOTHY BRAKEL

LISA BEINS-MCCAIG

Address: 6780 Lockmill St., Temperance

Occupation, employer: Sales, marketing, project management, American Red Cross

Public offices held or sought: Bedford school board, 2013-present.

Fun Fact: Mrs. Beins-McCaig has lived in Bedford Township for 33 years. She attended Douglas Road Elementary School, Bedford Junior High and graduated from Bedford High School in 1988.

Greatest Importance:

Mrs. Beins-McCaig said her main priority if retained is to help the board develop and maintain a strategic plan that is specific, simple and actionable. She said the board must show commitment to putting board initiatives into action.

"When you set goals, you have to look back at them periodically to see what you have accomplished," she said. "We don't do enough of that. I want a board liaison that focuses just on the strategic plan and making sure we are making progress."



LISA BEINS-MCCAIG

TODD C. BRUNING

Address: 2980 Consear Rd., Lambertville

Occupation, employer: Business owner, Todd's Guns

Public offices held or sought: none

Fun Fact: Mr. Bruning said he became involved in the election after the school district asked the taxpayers to pass a \$70.35 million bond to be used for building renovations. He said he does not believe the current school board is fiscally responsible.

Greatest Importance:

Mr. Bruning said his top priority if elected would be to re-evaluate the district's budget and look for places where costs can be saved. He specifically cited the board's membership to certain organizations as a place where he believed funding can be cut.

"I'd like to know what the board gets in return for those memberships. If we're just involved because every other school board is involved, then those funds can go back into the pot to be used for the schools."



TODD C. BRUNING

JOE GORE

Address: 3200 White St., Lambertville

Occupation, employer: Sheriff's Deputy, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Public offices held or sought: Bedford school board, 2007-present

Fun Fact: Mr. Gore has nine children: two have graduated from Bedford High School; four are currently enrolled; and three are not of school-age yet, but will pass through BPS.

Greatest Importance:

If re-elected, Mr. Gore said he will continue to work to make BPS economically secure.

"We still need to become financially stronger," he said. "That will boost morale in the district, attract students into the district, bring revenue into the district and help us move forward. Once we've become stronger, we can start to bring back those cuts we've had to make."



JOE GORE