



# Twin Valley School District

4851 N. Twin Valley Road  
Elverson, PA 19520

## OP ED

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### **Say Thanks to our School Board Members!**

Elverson, PA – Being an effective school board member is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. School board members need to be knowledgeable about complex educational and social issues and carry out initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments. To face the demands of governing our public schools, they willingly give countless hours of personal time.

These are men and women elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for our public schools. They represent you, the tax payer, and they take this responsibility seriously by attending lengthy meetings and talking about our schools with business leaders, parents and the community.

Our Twin Valley School District board is one of 501 such boards across Pennsylvania. These boards enable us to have local control of the public schools, meaning that decisions on school programs are made by local, elected representatives who understand the community's unique values, culture and circumstances. With the advice and counsel of the educational professionals they hire, our board has a bearing on virtually every aspect of our schools. It is a huge responsibility and one that should not be taken lightly. Their actions directly affect our children – what they learn, who will teach them and what types of facilities house their classrooms.

This year marks a special milestone as we remember the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Free Schools Act in 1834. This pivotal piece of legislation firmly established public education in Pennsylvania and ensured that decisions about schools would be made locally by elected members of the community.

This January, communities are encouraged to honor the contributions of their local school board members. Too often we neglect to recognize the commitment and hard work of these men and women who serve as advocates for our schools. The Twin Valley School District staff and student ask all members of our community to tell our board members – Paul Oldham, Marita Sullivan, John Prinzo, Tom Legel, Catherine Goetz, Elaine Kurtz, Anne Tunbridge, Gary McEwen, and Stephanie Colantuno – “Thanks for caring about our children.”

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*Twin Valley School District is an equal opportunity public education institution that is committed to excellence in education. In partnership with parents and the community, the District aspires to prepare students for challenges in an ever-changing world.*