

Greetings District Clerk,

I am writing to request that you forward the enclosed letter and attachments to your entire Board of Education upon receipt. I ask that they consider a motion at their December business meeting to elect me as their representative to the NYSSBA Board of Directors.

Should they so choose to elect me, the following steps must be followed to complete the process:

1. At your December business meeting, adopt a resolution electing me as your NYSSBA representative. Example below:  
RESOLVED, the [Your District Name] Board of Education hereby elects Matthew Wade of the Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District to the position of Area 7 Director of the New York State School Boards Association for a two-year term beginning in January 2014.
2. Print a paper copy of the resolution on your district letterhead indicating the date of the meeting, the motion and second, and the final vote on the resolution.
3. Your superintendent needs to sign the document verifying the resolution passed.  
(Note: Signatory must be the Superintendent, not the District Clerk.)
4. Mail the document to NYSSBA by the end of December. Address to:  
Mary Metheny, c/o NYSSBA, 24 Century Hill Drive Suite 200, Latham, NY 12110-2125.
5. Mail a copy of the letter to me for my records, 32 Hakes Road, Troy, NY 12180-6925.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions (matt.h.wade@me.com).

Thank you and happy holidays,  
Matt Wade

December 5, 2013

*Chris and the AP BoE:*

Greetings fellow Area 7 school board members:

I'm contacting you and your board to formally request your support of my candidacy for the Area 7 Director position on the New York State School Boards Association's (NYSSBA's) Board of Directors (BOD). By December 5, NYSSBA should have contacted you regarding my candidacy. The nomination period is over; now comes the vote that counts!

**I ask that your school board elect me—by formal Board resolution—at your December business meeting.** If you choose to support me, you must submit a copy of your resolution to NYSSBA by December 31, 2013. Your district clerk has instructions on how to complete this task.

I have attached a letter that explains my qualifications and intent (you should have received a copy via email in late October); attached to that is my résumé for your review. You can also explore my LinkedIn page to learn more about me (<http://www.linkedin.com/in/mhwade>). I am, for your benefit, an open book. And that's the way it should be.

I'm running for a few major reasons:

- 1) This is a critical time to support education and I think I bring a very unique perspective to the field based on my career in a STEM area.
- 2) The current make-up of the NYSSBA BOD is rather homogenous, consisting mainly of BOCES representatives (8 of the 12 Area representatives) and board members from large, rich, suburban school districts (many of the districts represented have less than 10% free and reduced lunch rates). Small, rural, average-to-high needs districts, which make up a major percentage of districts in upstate New York, are woefully underrepresented.
- 3) It's important to have a representative of the next generation making decisions today if someone with the qualifications and experience indeed exists. After all, my generation will have to work with, deal with, or (being frank here) resent the decisions that are made today. I daresay it can't hurt to have someone on the BOD that had the Internet available during their public school experience.
- 4) Communications in any organization can always be better and I'd like to bring my communications skills to Area 7 (roughly a third of my job duties comprise corporate communications). I'd like to see the establishment of a list serve that can connect board leadership so they have the opportunity to share best practices, anecdotes, and lessons learned between boards. While we try to get as much professional development in, I think most of us will admit that we're too busy to attend all the training functions available to us. Direct, online communication would help us grow better as board members.

Most importantly, I pledge access. You can feel free to email or call me at any time for information or to share concerns. At this point, I've visited almost two dozen school boards already and have built relationships with many of their members. Just that face-to-face contact gives you that much more reason to reach out. Communication within our Area could help all of us, and I hope to be the catalyst that can bring about this improvement.

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season,

*Matt Wade*

Matt Wade  
President, Board of Education  
Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District

Matt Wade  
32 Hakes Road  
Troy, NY 12180  
518.588.6426  
matt.h.wade@me.com  
linkedin.com/in/mhwade

October 28, 2013

Dear Area 7 Boards of Education:

I am writing you today to ask for your support of my candidacy for Area 7 Director of the New York State School Boards Association. As you are probably aware, the former Area 7 Director, Lynne Lenhardt, was elected president of NYSSBA at the annual convention last weekend, vacating the Area 7 Director seat.



I seek to fill this vacancy because I'm passionate about improving education in New York. A product of the public school system, I believe I can bring my experience and expertise to the NYSSBA Board of Directors and support the issues that will enhance the educational process at the right cost. I also want to increase the communication between NYSSBA and Area 7 component boards.

Another major issue for me is including the Millennial Generation (or Gen Y if you prefer) in today's decision-making process because my generation will inherit the outcomes of today's decisions. Rarely is there an opportunity to nominate a member of the next generation who is qualified and has the relevant experience to be considered for this role. Because I began my school board service at such a young age (22), I bring both school board experience and a more direct connection to the educational process.

I have proudly served on the board of education of Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District since 2008; this is my third year serving as president of the board. I have a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering and currently work in the alternative energy field as a mechanical engineer. If Brunswick or Brittonkill don't sound familiar to you, the Tamarac Bengals may. For historical reasons, my school has... a lot of names.

I am a proud 2004 graduate of Tamarac High School and ran and won a seat on my board days after graduating from college. During my senior year of high school, I also partook in the Questar III BOCES' New Visions METS program (which ended up being the predecessor program to Tech Valley High School). It still stands as the best educational experience I ever had.

I ran for school board for two reasons. First, I wanted to ensure that a recent student's perspective was included in the decisions being made for my alma mater. Second, coming from a family known for its dedication to public service, I also wanted to give back to the school that gave me the preparation that I needed to be a successful student, engineer, and member of the voting public. Little did I know that

we were to see an economic catastrophe the likes of which hadn't been seen in decades. My board service has been a humbling and educational experience.

School board service has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had and I'd like to expand my impact on the issues. Although young, I have significant experience as a school board member:

- In my time on the board I have overseen a dramatic move in government transparency using a combination of our district website and BoardDocs;
- As policy committee chair, I oversaw a complete review of board policies;
- I worked to implement a clear board orientation process, which has been really important due to the high turnover rate on my board (I'm going on six years of service and I'm the senior member of my board);
- I helped reform our board committees to be more efficient and effective; and
- As board president, I led a successful superintendent search.

I have also taken part in various organizations outside of my district:

- I was appointed by Lynne Lenhardt to NYSSBA's Constitutional Convention Task Force, which was chaired by NYSSBA President Tom Nespeca;
- I have served as the vice president for scholarship of the Capital District School Boards Association (CAPSBA) for the past three years;
- I have taken part in NYSSBA's Capital Conference and routinely lobby my legislators on important issues;
- My counterpart at Averill Park and I have built a board leadership listserv (email list) to encourage dialogue among board presidents and vice presidents in the Questar III BOCES; and
- I was also a presenter at the 2011 NYSSBA convention, discussing the potential of using Wikipedia in the classroom. I was featured in an article by Marc Humbert in NYSSBA's *On Board* in 2011. To read it, Google "matt wade nyssba wikipedia"; it's the first hit.

I said it the day I began my campaign for school board and I'll say it again: it's important to get the perspective of my generation in the decision-making process and that's a key reason why I'm running for this seat. **If elected, I will be the Director closest in time to the actual public school and college experience, by far.**

If elected, I plan to keep communications open between NYSSBA and your district. Communication is the most important part of any successful organization and it's one of the things I'm really good at. I will always be open to your comments, suggestions, questions, and critiques. We have a lot of important work to do in the coming years. It seems all of the big-ticket changes are coming at the same time and I hope to best represent you on NYSSBA's Board of Directors in this challenging time.

Please feel free to reach out to me for any reason. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Matt Wade*

Matt Wade

# Matthew Henry Wade, EIT

32 Hakes Road  
Troy, NY 12180-6925

(518) 588-6426 (cell)  
matt.h.wade@me.com  
linkedin.com/in/mhwade

## Professional Experience

<b>Project Manager, Reactor Equipment Design</b>	Jul 2013 – Present
<b>Project Lead, SharePoint 2007 Implementation</b>	Mar 2012 – Jul 2013
<b>Mechanical Engineer, Reactor Equipment Design</b>	Oct 2009 – Mar 2012
Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, a Bechtel subsidiary Niskayuna, New York	
<b>Transportation Construction Inspector, Level 3</b>	Summers 2007, 2008
New York State Dept. of Transportation Schenectady, New York	
<b>Field Office Intern</b>	Nov 2007 – May 2008
Clark Construction Washington, District of Columbia	
<b>Construction Intern</b>	Dec 2006 – May 2007
Sigal Construction Arlington, Virginia	
<b>Golf Shop Night Manager</b>	Summers 2005, '06, '07, '09
Country Club of Troy Troy, New York	
<b>CNN-GWU Intern</b>	Jan 2005 – Mar 2007
Jack Morton Auditorium for CNN's <i>Crossfire</i> , <i>On the Story</i> , <i>Reliable Sources</i> Washington, District of Columbia	

## Education

<b>M.Eng. Civil Engineering</b>	2008 – 2009
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) Troy, New York <b>Cumulative GPA: 3.266</b>	
<b>B.S. Civil Engineering</b>	2004 – 2008
The George Washington University (GWU) Washington, District of Columbia <b>Technical GPA: 3.469 — Cumulative GPA: 3.297</b>	
<b>Tamarac Senior High School (THS)</b>	2000 – 2004
Troy, New York	

Academic Experience	ASCE Chapter President	2007 – 2008
	GWU Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers	
	Student Mentor	2007 – 2008
	GWU Engineering School Student Peer Advising Network	
	Teaching Assistant	Fall 2007
	Introduction to Civil Engineering (Freshman introductory class)	
	Steel Bridge Competition Team Captain	2007 – 2008
	ASCE–AISC Student Steel Bridge Competition	
Memberships	Order of the Engineer	2008 – Present
	Structural Engineers Association of New York	2008 – 2010
	American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)	2005 – 2010
	National Society of Collegiate Scholars	2005 – Present
Academic Honors	Martin Mahler Technical Writing Award	May 2008
	3rd Place, Robert Marr Technical Paper	April 2008
	ASCE Outstanding Senior Award	April 2008
	Dean's Honor List	2 of 8 Semesters
	Dean's Commendation List	4 of 8 Semesters
	ASCE–National Capital Sector Scholarship Award	April 2007
	Presidential Academic Scholarship	2004 – 2008
Community Services	Member of the Board of Education ( <i>popularly elected</i> )	July 2008 – Present
	President of the Board	July 2011 – Present
	Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District	
	Brunswick, New York	
	url: <a href="http://www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us/BOE/index.asp">http://www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us/BOE/index.asp</a>	
	Member of the Board of Trustees	Aug 2010 – Mar 2013
	Chairman of the Board	Apr 2011 – Apr 2012
	Brunswick Lodge #2556 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks	
	Brunswick, New York	
	System Operator/Administrator and Content Builder	May 2009 – Present
<i>Wikipedia</i> , The Free Encyclopedia		
Google the phrase: "Wikipedian's beat", see article at timesunion.com (first hit)		
Computer Skills	<u>General:</u>	75+wpm typing
	<u>Operating Systems:</u>	Windows, Mac OSX, Linux ( <i>limited</i> ), Unix ( <i>limited</i> )
	<u>Software:</u>	Microsoft Office Package, Microsoft Office SharePoint, Abaqus, Adobe Photoshop, AutoCAD, STAAD, Constructware, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X <sub>2</sub> <sub>ε</sub>
Other Skills & Qualities	<u>Professional training:</u> Covey 7 Habits, GD&T, finite element analysis, technical writing, meeting facilitation skills, project management series	
	<u>Other skills:</u> Natural leadership skills, experience with program management and team effectiveness, effective communicator, excellent writing skills, creative, technically-oriented, excellent time management and organizational skills	
References	Available upon request	