

## **Kyle McKessy Appointed to School Board**

Kyle McKessy, of Wrightstown, was appointed in August to the Council Rock School Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Susan Vicedomini. The term expires this year and Kyle is seeking election to the seat for a four year term. Citizens sat down with Ms. McKessy recently to get some background information and to discuss her tenure, thus far, representing both Wrightstown Township and the northern sections of Newtown Township, Districts 1 and 2.

Born and raised in the Cheltenham area, Ms. McKessy attended Mount Saint Joseph's Academy in Flourtown. She received her B.A. in Communications from Elizabethtown College and later her Masters degree in Journalism from Temple University. Post graduation took Ms. McKessy to Wall Street and the Financial District where she was employed as a Technology Consultant.

After starting a family, the McKessy's lived in Newtown for three years and then moved to Wrightstown, where they have lived for the past eleven years. It was there that Ms. McKessy began her connection to Council Rock as the mother of three girls currently attending Wrightstown Elementary School and Newtown Middle School. Post Wall Street, she became active in her daughters' schools and served on the Crossing Cooperative School's Board for nine years in numerous capacities, including Board President. During this time Ms. McKessy took care of her elderly parents. She is forever grateful for the support given to her and her family by friends, neighbors and colleagues at Crossing Cooperative which enabled her to personally care for her terminally ill brother for eleven months. It was through this experience, and her husband working in World Trade Center 4 on September 11, 2001, that her path to giving back to her community and others became clear. A powerful message she has instilled in her children, to "pay it forward."

Once at Wrightstown Elementary School she became active serving on the PTO's executive Board as President-Elect as well as numerous committees such as Fundraising, Newsletter, Yearbook, After School Clubs, etc. She has been able to utilize her technology expertise by serving as the webmaster of both Wrightstown and Newtown Middle schools, creating a user friendly and informative vehicle for the school's communities. Additionally, she built the Wrightstown PTO website from scratch. Further technology improvements established by Ms. McKessy included creating an online directory for WES.

This was the catalyst that prompted Ms. McKessy to seek a seat on the School Board. She feels the district could well benefit from greater communication among the School District entities and the community at large. She would like to see constituents get their information from sources besides the Bucks County Courier Times and has set a goal to be a conduit to streamlining such communication stating that "we as a Board are not communicating properly to the best of our ability." She would like to spearhead uniformity of district websites. Another goal would be to accomplish better relations with the community's senior citizen population. She is the chairperson of the Board's Academic Standards committee and serves on the Facilities and Finance committees.

Now that the first months are behind her, and the learning curve is complete, she wishes to extend her term and accomplish her goals by being elected to a full four year

term beginning with the upcoming May primary election. She feels that she has a unique vision as an emissary uniting both Newtown and Wrightstown townships, having lived in both communities and having children attend schools in, what will soon be, all three levels. Ms. McKessy feels that a school board director does not solely serve their own community, but must "realize they are part of one global district." To that end she plans to work hard for all residents of Council Rock.