

April 22, 2013

Dennis L. Riker, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
One Education Plaza
Nazareth, PA 18064

Dear Dr. Riker:

It is my honor to nominate Thomas K. Maher, Jr., CPA, for the *I Touched the Future Recognition Award*. Mr. Maher served on the Nazareth Area School District Board of Education as a Director and Treasurer for twelve years from 1999 through 2011.

Mr. Maher was elected to the Board at a time when the District faced many educational and financial challenges. Foremost among these was uncertainty in the area of long-term fiscal planning. Under his guidance as chairman, the Audit and Finance Committee began working toward the District's future stability and financial health. His advocacy of long-term thinking extended beyond finance. Curriculum, technology, and facilities all benefited from his vision.

To build and preserve community trust and District integrity, Mr. Maher challenged us to conduct Board business with maximum transparency. He challenged us to critically analyze issues. And he challenged us to always act in the best interests of the students. He balanced the burden of the taxpayers against the need to prepare our students to not only succeed in the world but to better it. Thanks to his dedication, drive, and persistence, Nazareth Area School District is among the best in Pennsylvania.

I have grown both personally and professionally because of Mr. Maher. He helped me to become a more knowledgeable administrator and a stronger leader. I have the utmost respect for him because he was very committed to the District. He volunteered thousands of hours to Nazareth. He had the highest level of ethics and integrity. He believed strongly in fiscal responsibility, planning, and open communication. He fought for his beliefs, even if he was the single "no" vote.

Thomas K. Maher, Jr. graduated from Marquette University and earned a Masters' Degree in Business Administration from the University of Evansville. He was a U.S. Army veteran, a Certified Public Accountant, and was employed as Financial Controller for Sensient Technology. The father of three Nazareth Area High School graduates, he freely shared his education, experience, and values to make Nazareth a better place to work, learn and live. His untimely passing is a tremendous loss.