



MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS

All votes are confidential and counted one time.

Please cast your vote for one candidate to represent Region 8 for a three-year term on the MASB Board of Directors. To cast your vote, click the circle to the left of the candidate you wish to select. Once you've selected your candidate, click "next." All votes are confidential and counted one time.

NOTE: Voting is a two-step process. Once you submit your vote (Step 1), you'll receive an email asking you to validate your ballot (Step 2). **You must follow the link in this email to complete the voting process.**

2019 MASB Board of Directors Official Ballot

This is a Required Question.



Joshua Denzler

District: Lake Shore Public Schools

County: Macomb

Time served on this board: Two years

Offices held:

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Election Statement:

My first exposure to MASB was within maybe a week of my assuming office on the Board of Education. Mary Kerwin came out and taught us about the role of boards and board members. From this first interaction, I could tell MASB meant business and brought immense value to its member districts. Since then, I've attended almost every conference and class reasonably available to me.

In only two years on the Board, I've already reached the Award of Merit and Advocacy Skills certifications. I worked on the task force convened by Don Wotruba to evaluate and improve the equitability of MASB's governance model. I am constantly reading DashBoard articles to keep up on trends in education and utilizing "News From the Capitol" to advocate for public education with my elected officials. At the 2018 Annual Conference, I coordinated and facilitated a panel session of Young Leaders to provide our perspective to fellow school board members, and I soon hope to establish a Young Leaders Caucus within MASB.

Each of these points demonstrates that I am all-in with MASB, and I am seeking to take that commitment to the next level and serve each of you as a member of the Board of Directors.

Research tells us that more diverse teams achieve better outcomes and highlights the importance of having leaders in education who look and sound like the diverse populations we serve. The unique quality I bring to the Board of Directors is my perspectives as a young leader. I know what it's like for students as digital natives, the pressures and restraints of standardized testing, and what the modern classroom looks and feels like from the students' viewpoint. Just as I have brought this to my district, this point of view puts me in a unique position to bring that perspective to your Board of Directors and help inform the decisions and discussions that occur there.

I am a team-oriented leader. You'll notice these paragraphs don't contain a list of objectives or platforms. That's because a board is not the place for individual agendas. A board is a place for teamwork, collaboration, deliberation and advancement of the collective good of an organization. In bringing my perspective to the Board of Directors, I commit that the teamwork, collaboration, and decisions made will be more robust and MASB will be a better organization as a result of my involvement and leadership.



Steve Gottlieb

District: Troy School District

County: Oakland

Time served on this board: Two years

Offices held: Vice President

MASB Certification:

Election Statement:

Everything we do as board members is in service to an equitable and exceptional public education for all students. I believe that ensuring learning for all by providing students with authentic, personally meaningful, deep learning experiences is a powerful way to tackle inequity. Ensuring learning is an adaptive challenge. There isn't a ready-made solution that fits all students. For this reason, it is critical that our local boards are fully supported as they manage this complex and ambiguous task of providing deep learning experiences for each student. Local control is essential for making nimble decisions that meet the needs of students within each community across our state.

I have served the Troy community as a board member for the past two years. Before that, I taught in Troy for 41 years—mostly at the high school level. I have taught vocational auto mechanics, photography, computer networks and repair, government and economics—to name a few. While teaching in Troy, I was engaged with the Troy Education Association as Building Rep and as Grievance Chair. I was also Chair of the South Oakland District Association Council.

In addition to my experiences in education, I have served on the Troy City Council and the Troy Planning Commission. I have owned and operated a real estate business in Troy for more than 35 years. I am currently serving on the Board of

Directors of the T & I Credit Union in Clawson and the Clawson Chamber of Commerce.

MASB aims to provide high quality educational leadership services for all Michigan boards of education. The multiple perspectives (educator, teacher advocate, board member) that I can bring to the MASB Board of Directors will provide a unique lens for this work. I have a deep understanding of quality professional learning that will assist MASB in building the capacity of board members to ensure equity through excellence for all students.



Birgit McQuiston

District: Lake Orion Community Schools

County: Oakland

Time served on this board: Seven years

Offices held: Vice President and Secretary

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember Award

Election Statement:

The United States Supreme Court has said, “education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments.” (MASB Website) The endeavor of Board of Education Trustees as defenders and advocates of public education is a high calling! As John Dewey said so well: “Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself.” As a school board member, I am committed to my personal professional development and serving my community by ensuring an educational environment that provides for the needs of every student. I believe it is imperative that we collaborate with one another, not only to better ourselves at what we do, but also to unify our voices and efforts as we advocate for equitable educational opportunities for the students of our great state. I believe we have only begun to tap into our inherent power as a unified group of public education advocates through our work with MASB. It is my desire to be a part of the process that collaborates with board members from our region and across the state to improve the education of all our students, and thus my reason for seeking the opportunity to serve on the MASB Board of Directors as a Region 8 representative. It would be a high honor to serve in this capacity.

Committee participation: Lake Orion Community Schools—Policy Committee, Curriculum Committee, Board Self-Assessment Committee; Oakland County School Board Association Board of Directors—board member; and MASB Resolutions and Bylaws Committee Member.



Darlene Pomponio, Ph.D.

District: Southgate Community Schools

County: Wayne

Time served on this board: Nine years

Offices held: President, Vice President and Secretary

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award
Award of Merit
Award of Distinction
Master Boardmember Award
Master Diamond Award
Master Platinum Award
President's Award

Election Statement:

Almost 10 years ago, I started a journey of public service as a school board member in Southgate and a passion to be part of change in education. It has been a pleasure to work on several committees including anti-bullying, strategic planning, safety, policy and curriculum to name a few. I have held officer positions for the past seven years including President, Vice President and Secretary.

I have worked with WCASB as an executive board member for eight years with an officer position for the last seven years working on bylaw and policy committees. Through the MASB, I have participated in the Resolution and Bylaws and Government Relations Committees. The conferences, workshops and classes helped provide me with new insight on current issues and legislation in public education. I have earned awards and certifications leading to the highest level of President's Award. I have been part of the NSBA committees and have traveled to Washington several times to speak with legislators and fellow board members, which promoted collaboration and support for student achievement.

In addition to school board experiences, I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, an MBA with a discipline in Strategic Management, a Ph.D. in Applied Management and Decision Sciences, and continuing education in Education Leadership and Teacher Certification. I continue to write articles for the local newspaper on public and higher education including speaking out on the prevention of bullying and safety in our communities and schools.

My career has been in business, finance and education. As a college professor, I educate adult students and develop graduate and undergraduate courses. I have worked in public education as a substitute teacher working with students from elementary to high school. I have a nonprofit organization that conducts research in education and learning disabilities. We continue to support public service and have provided 10 scholarships over the past five years to high school seniors pursuing a career or education in the public service field. If given the opportunity to serve as an MASB Region 8 Director I will bring all of my experiences and education to fulfill the mission of the MASB to provide quality educational leadership services for school boards across Michigan while continuing to advocate for public education and student achievement.

**Angie Smith****District:** Farmington Public Schools**County:** Oakland**Time served on this board:** Two years**Offices held:** Secretary

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award
Award of Merit

Election Statement:

I wish to serve on the board to help others on strategic planning, achievement gaps and restorative practices. My major concern is working with districts that have students that suffer from mental issues and on equity. I want to knock on doors with boards to speak with the State Representatives and our Legislators. My work as a board member has been being involved at the Oakland school board level, serving on the 14th Congressional Education Committee and the Farmington Crime Prevention Committee. I am on the Board Operators Committee and Policy and Development Committee, Community Relations Chair, the Rep. for Farmington African American Network, Disciplinary Appeals Committee and the Oakland ISD voting delegate. My idea is to have more younger board members take part in training and have them come visit other districts and take what you learn back and recruitment for board spots. My concerns are we are going to lose young teachers to other careers due to cuts and my major concern is we need to fix the achievement gap statewide. We need more great Board of Directors to teach members how to deal with conflict resolutions.

**Michael Swiecki****District:** Wyandotte Public Schools**County:** Wayne**Time served on this board:** 24 years**Offices held:** President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer**MASB Certification:**

Certified Boardmember Award
Award of Merit
Award of Distinction
Master Boardmember Award
Master Diamond Award
Master Platinum Award

Election Statement:

I would like to see public education continue to move forward utilizing new ideas, technology and innovation. I have had two children graduate from Wyandotte Schools and currently my grandchildren are attending which keeps me vested and active. In the last 24 years of board service I have seen much stay the same and much change. While funding and standardized testing seem to be a struggle that never ends, student achievement and success must be the priority. Our work is never done, we can and should always strive for better. I have always been an advocate of MASB and I am currently working on the President's Award Level. I appreciate the work and support that they have provided over the years. I believe that it is important for all boards to work together to find the best opportunities for all districts. Twenty-five years brings a bit of experience and the appetite to see students achieve and succeed never dies, I find it quite invigorating. I feel now is the right time for me to give back and help support this organization. I am asking for your support to represent Region 8 on the MASB Board of Directors.



Regina Williams

District: Harper Woods School District

County: Wayne

Time served on this board: Six years

Offices held: President, Vice President and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Election Statement:

As a member of my community and an educator I am greatly concerned about the future of education in the state of Michigan. I believe that every student should have the opportunity to excel in a learning environment that is equitable and fair to all students. Michigan schools have underperformed on standardized tests in comparison with neighboring states. If elected as a MASB Director, I will help to support the role of school districts in policy and decisionmaking to improve the quality of education in Michigan schools.

I am very passionate about the education of students. I am a leader in my community who has proudly served on my local school board of the Harper Woods Board of Education for six years and am committed to improving educational opportunities to students. I have served as President, Vice President and Treasurer on my local school board and have completed classes in advocacy and data at MASB workshops. I have also served my country as a First Lieutenant in the Army National Guard, I am also a teacher who has taught mathematics and science for 23 years in the Detroit Public Schools Community District and has served on many committees during that time to include curriculum development and school improvement. I have a strong belief in the potential of students and am very dedicated to improving the educational system for all students. I have a bachelors and a master's degree in education from Wayne State University and have received the Award of Merit from the Michigan Association of School Boards in 2016; Certified Boardmember Award from the Michigan Association of School Boards in 2015; Certificate of Appreciation by the Michigan Department of Education Point of Contact for Building a Presence in Science in 2008 and Certificate of Appreciation for Chemistry Professional Development Presenter for the Detroit Public Schools District.

I believe that strong leadership on school boards in conjunction with parent groups and the community can improve the quality of education in school systems. As a board member, I can help to draft governing standards that will help to improve Michigan's educational system. I am very passionate about the education of students and dedicated to obtaining a high quality and equitable educational system. I am excited about this opportunity and hope that you will elect me to serve on the MASB Board of Directors.

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