



MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS



**BOARD *of*
DIRECTORS
ELECTIONS**

2026

MASB Bylaws – Article IV – Membership

Section 2. Active Members. The board of education of any public school district in Michigan may become an active member of the Association. Active members of the Association shall be divided into eight regions. The regions shall be designated according to intermediate school district boundaries. The regions shall be as follows:

Region 1. Copper Country ISD, Delta-Schoolcraft ISD, Dickinson-Iron ISD, Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD, Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD, Marquette-Alger RESA and Menominee County ISD.

Region 2. Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona ESD, Charlevoix- Emmet ISD, Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle ESD, COOR ISD, Iosco RESA, Manistee ISD, Northwest Education Services and Wexford-Missaukee ISD.

Region 3. Ionia County ISD, Kent ISD, Mecosta-Osceola ISD, Montcalm Area ISD, Muskegon Area ISD, Newaygo County RESA, Ottawa Area ISD and West Shore ESD.

Region 4. Bay-Arenac ISD, Clare-Gladwin RESD, Clinton County RESA, Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Midland County ESD, Saginaw ISD and Shiawassee RESD.

Region 5. Genesee ISD, Huron ISD, Lapeer County ISD, Sanilac ISD, St. Clair County RESA and Tuscola ISD.

Region 6. Allegan Area ESD, Barry ISD, Berrien RESA, Branch ISD, Calhoun ISD, Heritage Southwest ISD, Kalamazoo RESA, St. Joseph County ISD and Van Buren ISD.

Region 7. Eaton RESA, Hillsdale County ISD, Ingham ISD, Jackson County ISD, Lenawee ISD, Livingston ESD, Monroe County ISD and Washtenaw ISD.

Region 8. Macomb ISD, Oakland Schools and Wayne RESA.

Active members shall also be divided into the following seven groups based on pupil membership.

Group I All intermediate districts;

Group II School districts with a pupil membership of 0 - 1,400;

Group III School districts with a pupil membership of 1,401 - 2,500;

Group IV School districts with a pupil membership of 2,501 - 5,000;

Group V School districts with a pupil membership of 5,001 - 11,000;

Group VI School districts with a pupil membership of 11,001 - 40,000; and

Group VII School districts with a pupil membership more than 40,000.

Table of Contents

Board of Directors' Elections—Candidate Information and Email Voting Procedures	4
--	---

Region 1 (Three-Year Term)

Brad Baltensperger	Houghton-Portage Township Schools, Houghton County	5
JJ Johnson-Reeves	Escanaba Area Public Schools, Delta County	6

Region 5 (Three-Year Term)

Richard Hill	Kearsley Community Schools, Genesee County	7
James Johnson	Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, Genesee County	8

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)

Charlie Fulbright	Battle Creek Public Schools, Calhoun County	9
TiAnna Harrison	Kalamazoo Public Schools, Kalamazoo County	10
Elizabeth O'Dell	St. Joseph County ISD, St. Joseph County	11

Note: Incumbents are **bolded**

Board of Directors' Elections – Candidate Information and Email Voting Procedures

This year, six seats on the MASB Board of Directors are up for election.

The MASB Board of Directors is comprised of 23 members, including three at-large directors. Sixteen directors shall be elected from the eight regions, with two elected from each region; and one director per group shall be elected from Groups V, VI and VII. Directors are elected by active member school boards and, each year, several seats are up for election. The MASB President will nominate a member to serve as an at-large director, subject to Board approval.

Board Limitations:

Article VIII, Section 6 of the MASB Bylaws permits only one director to be elected or appointed from any one local or intermediate school district board.

According to MASB Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8, if any nomination for the Board of Directors is unopposed, the Board of Directors shall declare the unopposed candidate elected without conducting an election for the uncontested group or region.

This year, the following seats on the MASB Board are up for election (one seat each, three-year terms unless otherwise noted): Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. If you're unsure of your district's region or group, please see the list on page 2.

- **Region 2 will continue to be represented by Kenneth Stahl, McBain Rural Agricultural School, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**
- **Region 3 will continue to be represented by Jill Fennessy, Tri County Area Schools, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**
- **Region 4 will continue to be represented by Matthew Showalter, Gratiot-Isabella ISD, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**

Voting in Regions 1, 5 and 6 will take place via an online ballot. No local district/ISD funds can be used to campaign for anyone running for a seat. To help your board make an informed decision, the following pages contain background information and statements from each of the candidates.

Each district received ONE ballot, which was emailed to the superintendent secretary on record with MASB on **Friday, Jan. 23, 2026**. These ballots **CANNOT** be forwarded to anyone else. Once your board makes a decision on which candidate it wishes to vote for, please convey this information to your superintendent secretary.

Completed ballots must be cast and confirmed by the superintendent secretary by **1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**.

Unofficial election results will be available by calling 517.327.5915 after 2 p.m. on the deadline date. They will also be sent out via email that afternoon. Official results will be approved at the March 20, 2026, Board of Directors' meeting, which newly elected directors should plan to attend.

To summarize:

- Ballot deadline is **1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**.
- MASB would like to remind all candidates for the MASB Board of Directors that no school district funds can be used for campaigning during the election. This rule prohibits a candidate from using their school district email account to send messages to other school board members. Therefore, a personal email account must be used for campaigning purposes when running for the MASB Board of Directors. If you have any questions about what may or may not constitute an expenditure of school district funds, please contact MASB's Legal Counsel **Brad Banasik, J.D.**, at **bbanasik@masb.org** or **517.327.5929**.
- An electronic file containing the physical addresses and email addresses for the voting group or region shall be made available to each candidate running for election to the board of directors. The revokable license to use the addresses shall be limited to contacting school board members to share information about the MASB Board of Directors' election.
- Have questions? Contact **Brooke Wooley** at **517.327.5915** or **bwooley@masb.org**.

Region 1 (Three-Year Term)



Brad Baltensperger INCUMBENT

Houghton-Portage Township Schools, Houghton County

**Time served
on this board:**

38 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, Secretary,
and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

President's Award of Recognition

Election Statement:

The Michigan Association of School Boards is a leading voice for public education in Michigan. It provides leadership development services for school board members across the state so they can do their jobs. MASB also brings the concerns of school boards to the legislature and the media. The Board of Directors helps guide these activities.

Upper Peninsula schools struggle with many challenges—high transportation costs, teacher shortages, unpredictable funding, and multiple issues of particular concern to small and rural school districts. MASB is THE critical resource helping board members find solutions. I am proud that the organization has undertaken several important initiatives to assist UP board members in their leadership roles, including a wide range of online courses, incentives for participation in MASB events, and the Upper Peninsula Advocacy Summit this fall in Marquette.

I have served on the Houghton-Portage Township School Board for a number of years. I also helped establish the Copper Country Association of School Boards, so that area board members would have opportunities to celebrate public education and to discuss issues of mutual concern with one another. MASB is committed to strategies and policies that support student learning and help board members govern wisely to enable all students to succeed. If re-elected to the MASB Board of Directors, I will continue to speak up for the needs of UP schools so we can all respond to the challenges of our local communities in providing excellent education for our students.

Region 1 (Three-Year Term)



JJ Johnson-Reeves

Escanaba Area Public Schools, Delta County

**Time served
on this board:**

3
years

Offices held:

Secretary

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Community Relations Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Finance Certification

Leadership Certification

Election Statement:

Michigan's public schools stand at a pivotal moment as districts respond to evolving student needs, workforce demands, and community expectations. I believe deeply that public education is the foundation of a thriving and equitable society. I am committed to ensuring that every district—large or small, rural or urban—has the support, resources, and vision necessary to help students succeed. This includes strengthening the systems that serve students, empowering the educators who lead classrooms, and equipping school boards with the tools, training, and advocacy needed for effective governance.

My professional background and board service have prepared me to contribute meaningfully at the statewide level as a member of the MASB Board of Directors. As the owner of a small personal-lines insurance agency serving the educational community, I have developed strong experience in budgeting, policy and procedure development, risk management, and community-centered leadership. In addition, my service as Secretary of the Escanaba Area Public Schools Board of Education has reinforced the importance of sound governance, transparency, and trust-building with families and stakeholders. These roles have strengthened my ability to listen thoughtfully, collaborate across differing perspectives, and make decisions grounded in both data and compassion—always keeping students at the center of the work. I bring a leadership mindset that is both pragmatic and aspirational, rooted in real-world experience and driven by a belief that our systems can and must improve.

The challenges facing public education in Michigan are well known: recruiting and retaining exceptional educators, addressing student mental health needs, ensuring equitable and sustainable funding, and preparing students for a rapidly changing economy. MASB plays a vital role in helping districts meet these challenges through high-quality governance training, strong legislative advocacy, and a commitment to continuous improvement. I am seeking a seat on the MASB Board of Directors to help strengthen the partnership between local boards and the statewide organization that supports them. I will bring a steady, solutions-focused voice dedicated to elevating board governance, championing public education, and ensuring that MASB remains a trusted and effective resource for every district in Michigan. It would be an honor to serve and advance MASB's mission on behalf of Michigan's students, families, and communities. Our students deserve nothing less than our most courageous thinking and our most determined actions.

Region 5 (Three-Year Term)



Richard Hill

Kearsley Community Schools, Genesee County

**Time served
on this board:**

30 years

**Time served on
another board:**

8 years

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

President's Award of Recognition

Community Relations Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Finance Certification

Offices held:

President, Vice President,
Secretary and Treasurer

Election Statement:

For the past 30 years, I've had the opportunity to serve our local School District Board of Education, Kearsley Community Schools. After retiring from GM in April 2016, I ran and was elected to our Genesee County Intermediate School District Board of Education in 2017.

As a Board member, I'm able to work with Administration, Teachers, School Staff, Students, Parents, the community, and County to provide ongoing educational opportunities for all Students. When joining both Boards of Educations, my three goals are: provide a safe and healthy environment for all employees and students, work to drive continuous improvement with our student learning, and maintain a strong financial fund equity.

Much like our Administration and Teachers, I've been a big supporter of professional development. In 2021, I was recognized by the MASB Executive Director for achieving the MASB President Award of Recognition. I've decided to run for the MASB Board of Directors in 2026. I feel that with my experience and leadership acquired with GM and my School Board experience, I can provide value to the MASB Board of Directors. My style is simple; work cooperatively with my colleagues, listen to others, ask questions, review the data, and do what's best for our students and School Districts.

If any Board would like to meet with me, please call me. I am asking for your support to give me this opportunity. Thank You, Richard Hill

Region 5 (Three-Year Term)



James Johnson

INCUMBENT

Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, Genesee County

Time served on this board:

12 years

Time served on another board:

5 years

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

President's Award of Recognition

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Offices held:

President, Vice President,
and Treasurer

Election Statement:

Greetings, fellow school board members, it was a pleasure and an honor to serve as your 2024–2025 State President. As your current Past President and Region 5 representative, I have embraced this role with dignity and honor, driven by an unwavering passion for the success of public education. As your Regional Director, I have served on and chaired the Government Relations committee, Resolutions and Bylaws committee and on various National School Board committees.

My leadership training, combined with years of professional and vocational experience, has prepared me to serve as your MASB Region 5 Director with focus, strength, and vision. As an Information Technology Director, I bring a unique ability to solve complex problems. A skillset that has proven invaluable in navigating the challenges facing public education today. Over the past few years, as a director, I have had challenges that cultivated new perspectives while yet remaining steadfast and resilient, ensuring that our collective voice grows stronger with every challenge. As your representative, I lead with professionalism, respect, and a spirit of collaboration. I believe in making collective progress not only effective but enjoyable. Together, we can continue strengthening your district where your student thrives, and every school board member feels empowered to lead with confidence.

As I converse nationwide on the challenges facing school boards everywhere, one truth stands out: the safety of our schools is not just a priority; it is a promise we must keep. Every child deserves to walk into a classroom feeling secure, supported, and ready to learn. In Michigan, that also includes access to clean, safe drinking water in every school. These are not luxuries; they are the foundations of a healthy learning environment. When students feel protected physically, mentally, and emotionally, they can unlock their full potential.

True board governance is not created in Lansing; it is shaped at the local board tables, where decisions directly impact students, educators, families, and communities. Therefore, I want to thank you for your leadership and fervent dedication to public education while being the voice for the children that you represent.

I respectfully request your support, and that of your board, by re-electing James Johnson as the Region 5 representative on the MASB Board of Directors, to ensure continued strong advocacy for your district. Together, we will succeed!

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)



Charlie Fulbright

INCUMBENT

Battle Creek Public Schools, Calhoun County

**Time served
on this board:**

7
years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, and
Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Community Relations Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Finance Certification

Leadership Certification

Election Statement:

I am interested in being a Director of MASB for Region 6 because I believe public education is fundamental in our state and country. Especially in this last year, and the next three years, I feel it is important to have not only diversity on local and state boards, but strong leaders. I believe my experience and dedication are just that.

I have been on my local board for 7 years and on the MASB board for two years. During my time on my local board, I have been a Trustee, Treasurer, Vice President and President. I have continued my own personal learning from day one of being on the board, and I have achieved the Level 5 Master Diamond Award, as well as all five Specialty Certifications. I have also been a committee member of the Government Relations Committee and Resolutions and Bylaws Committee for MASB and in the 2025 Annual Leadership Conference I was a counter for the delegate assembly.

I am willing and able to step up when needed to better our public education community. I have attended the National School Board Association (NSBA) to expand my knowledge and growth to bring back tools and ideas for not only my local board, but MASB and our state. I feel I bring a perspective that no one else can bring being an out gay man. I would love to continue my advocacy, growth and leadership by being your Region 6 Director.

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)



TiAnna Harrison

Kalamazoo Public Schools, Kalamazoo County

**Time served
on this board:**

12 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, Secretary
and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Master Platinum

Advocacy Skills Specialty Certification

Data Skills Specialty Certification

Election Statement:

My name is TiAnna Harrison, and I currently serve as Board President of Kalamazoo Public Schools. Since my appointment to the board in 2014 and reelection in 2020, I have served in every officer role, including Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

As a board leader in a diverse, urban district, I have worked alongside my colleagues to strengthen governance practices, ensure financial stability, advance equity-centered policies, and support student achievement and well-being. These experiences have reinforced my belief that strong, well-trained boards are essential to strong public schools.

I am deeply aligned with MASB's mission to promote effective governance, board member development and advocacy for local control. I believe school boards must be equipped with the tools, training and policy support needed to meet the unique needs of their communities while navigating complex statewide challenges. I am seeking a seat on the MASB Board of Directors to contribute my experience, collaborative leadership style and commitment to equity in support of school boards across Michigan. I am passionate about advancing policies that empower locally elected boards, support educators, and improve outcomes for all students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)



Elizabeth O'Dell

INCUMBENT

St. Joseph County ISD, St. Joseph County

**Time served
on this board:**

28 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, Secretary
and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember

Master Diamond

Election Statement:

The MASB is our collective voice on education at the state level, and it allows board members to be informed about educational issues. I think the Director for the Region's role is to ensure that our voice is heard as the MASB discusses issues and concerns.

I have been an active St. Joseph County ISD member for 28 years. I have held various positions, from member to president. Each position has allowed me to grow.

I have worked with the parent-teacher association, band, and athletic booster clubs. I have served on the special education advisory committee. I have enjoyed serving as a delegate to MASB membership meetings in my county. Through this process, I have learned what various boards are concerned about as they present resolutions and amendments to the Board of Directors, which has deepened my understanding of how our collective needs are connected.

My children and I are products of public education. I obtained my bachelor's degree from Ball State University and my graduate degree from Western Michigan University. I am not new to service, advocacy, and listening. I have and will continue to strive to assist others to make positive change. I am a retired CEO of St. Joseph County Community Mental Health, I use my time to volunteer in my church, for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief, as a substitute teacher, as well as working with a variety of social action services through my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

After serving for one year, I am convinced that the position is to advocate for the needs of our small and large communities. I am a champion for public education, and with your vote, I can continue to serve this region at the next level.



MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS



The mission of the Michigan Association of School Boards is to provide high-quality educational leadership services for all Michigan boards of education, and to advocate for an equitable and exceptional public education for all students.

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