

BOARD of DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

**

2021 CANDIDATES

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, Traverse Bay Area ISD 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 ESA, 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 ESA, Barry ISD, Berrien RESA, Branch ISD, Calhoun ISD, Kalamazoo RESA, Lewis Cass ISD, St. Joseph County ISD and Van Buren ISD.

Region 7. Eaton RESA, Hillsdale County ISD, Ingham ISD, Jackson County ISD, Lenawee ISD, Livingston ESA, 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 over 40,000.

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

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

The MASB Board of Directors is currently comprised of 21 members—16 directors elected from the eight regions (two elected from each); and one director each from Groups V, VI and VII. Directors are elected by active member school boards and, each year, several seats are up for election. As approved by the 2018 Delegate Assembly, beginning in 2019 and in each subsequent year, the MASB President will nominate a member to serve as an at-large director, subject to Board approval. Beginning in 2021, the Board of Directors will consist of 22 members, including three at-large directors.

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, (two-year term), 5, 6, 7, 8 and Group VI (one-year term). 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 Dawn Kaiser, losco RESA (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)

• Group VI will be represented by Dan Centers, Livonia Public Schools (one-year term; unopposed, no ballots will be sent)

Voting in Regions 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 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 Jan. 22, 2021. 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 submitted and confirmed by the superintendent secretary by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Electronic voting is a two-step process: Step 1 = Submit ballot. Step 2 = Confirm ballot has been submitted.

Unofficial election results will be available on the voicemail recording at 517.327.5915 as soon as possible, but generally 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 12, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting, which newly elected directors should plan to attend.

To summarize:

- Ballot deadline is 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.
- No local district/ISD funds can be used to campaign for anyone running for a seat.
- Have guestions? Contact Cheryl Huffman at 517.327.5915 or chuffman@masb.org.

Brad Baltensperger*

Houghton-Portage Township Schools, Houghton County



Time served on this board: 32 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 President's Award

Election Statement:

MASB is a leading voice for public schools in the state. Through its efforts school board concerns are heard in the legislature and in the media. The Association continues to support excellence and equity in education. We do this by focusing on adequate funding and student learning. MASB also provides resources for board members to become highly effective decision-makers and education leaders. I strongly support the ongoing efforts of MASB to respond to the challenges faced by school boards, local communities, and public education.

*Incumbent

Janice Van Gasse

Norway-Vulcan Area Schools, Dickinson County



Time served on this board: Two years

Offices held: Treasurer

MASB Certification: Certified Boardmember Award Award of Merit

Election Statement:

I proudly became a Board member in January of 2019. I am the treasurer of the Norway-Vulcan Area Schools Board of Education and am on the Curriculum, Finance, Policy, and Technology Committees. I am a member of MASB's Resolutions and Bylaws Committee and was a delegate to the 2019 and 2020 Delegate Assemblies. To date, I have been awarded 42 CBA Credits and 115 Education Credits, earning the Certified Boardmember Award and the Award of Merit.

I am a retired educator, having been a teacher, school counselor, school administrator, and adjunct professor. I was the Coordinator for Curriculum, Assessment and School Improvement at Lenawee ISD, a Curriculum Consultant for Dickinson-Iron ISD, and the Director of Instructional Services for Breitung Township Schools in Kingsford. I served on numerous Michigan Department of Education committees and was the chair of the State's Special Education Advisory Council. I served on the state boards of the Michigan School Counselor Association, the Michigan Counseling Association, the Michigan Staff Development Council, the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists, and the Michigan Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

The greatest challenges facing schools in Michigan currently are the need for a focus on the Whole Child, including social-emotional learning, limited finances, the teacher shortage, and how to improve our public education system so that each individual student is able to learn in the way that best suits them. I believe that going forward we can use what we've learned during the pandemic about the power of relationships, innovative instructional models, and community partnerships so that our schools can become more equitable for all students. The virus has also accentuated unacceptable inequities and lack of fairness in how we fund schools. It has highlighted how Michigan fails to provide adequate resources in communities statewide. These immense challenges make it more important than ever to pay attention to the recommendations of the School Finance Research Collaborative.

I wish to serve on the MASB Board of Directors because I believe strongly in its mission and vision. I am passionate about education with a focus on what's best for students. Because of the professional development opportunities offered by MASB, I have become a stronger board member. I believe that I need to give back to the organization and I would look forward to working with other MASB directors to address the challenges facing schools today.

Kandace Boysen

Mona Shores Public Schools, Muskegon County



Time served on this board: 13 years

Offices held: President, Vice President and Treasurer

MASB Certification:

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

Election Statement:

I have always appreciated the public education our two sons had received throughout their K-12 years. When a seat was available for appointment in July of 2007, I applied because I wanted to be a part of ensuring that each and every student would have all possible opportunities to succeed. During my time as a Mona Shores Public Schools board trustee, I have become greatly invested in PBIS and MTSS and the successes these programs provide for students, all students. I advocate for each student having his/her own learning style and that the appropriate education is available and is professionally provided. I encourage and urge our state legislators to make the investment in public K-12 education and to have the professionals and the tools present daily for the success of each student. Considering the current state and federal legislative climates for public education, I am concerned the separation of church and state will not be upheld unless we advocate are tenacious at keeping our elected officials in check. As a locally elected public servant, I have a passion for maintaining the autonomy of publicly elected boards of education.

I am a retired Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. I have worked in Pittsburgh and Baltimore until my husband and I moved to West Michigan in 1986. I continued my practice as a CRNA until I retired in 1994 to be a stayat-home mom.

I have often commented that I am amazed at the work our educators do and that I could never fill any of their shoes. I look forward to the day when teachers are appreciated and recognized widely for the levels of education they have attained and for how they continually utilize their skills and professionalism to set the stage for their students' successes.

Katherine Downes Lewis

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kent County



Time served on this board: Four years

Offices held: Secretary

MASB Certification: Certified Boardmember Award Award of Merit Award of Distinction

Election Statement:

I am a member of the Grand Rapids Public School Board. Having been recently reelected, I am starting the fifth year of service to the board. I am presently serving as the Secretary. I also serve as a member of the Policy Committee and the Finance Committee. In addition, I serve on the Kent Intermediate School Association of School Boards and serve as Secretary/ Treasurer for that board. I am also a member of the MASB's Resolutions and Bylaws Committee.

I was a public school teacher for thirty seven years at Kenowa Hills High School where I taught English. My two adult children graduated from Rockford Public Schools. My two granddaughters attend GRPS, and I am involved at their schools. As an educator, I have always been committed to students and what is best for them educationally and emotionally.

I earned my BA in English and Social Studies. My first Masters was in the teaching of English and my second MA was in Educational Leadership. My Educational Specialist is in the area of Educational Psychology. Last year I received my Level One Certification, my Award of Merit, and my Award of Distinction.

As a member of the GRPS Policy Committee, I am helping to develop a comprehensive review of the board's policies with a special emphasis on equity. Since my election to the board, I have had the opportunity to observe first hand the challenges that urban schools face. I would like the chance to share my experience on the statewide level, and, perhaps, influence the way schools are funded in order to improve programs for special needs children, for the ESL students, and for all public school children. I also hope to learn from other districts about their approach to the challenges that all schools face.

As a retired teacher, I am able to spend the time and energy on what I love best...education.

Jill Fennessy*

Tri County Area Schools, Montcalm County



Time served on this board: 12 years Offices held: President and Vice President

MASB Certification:

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

Election Statement:

Education is facing so many challenges these days, and my focus has been on legislative advocacy at the state and federal levels. I would continue to support efforts to curtail unfunded mandates, address funding disparities, and work to protect the School Aid Fund from further reductions. Additionally, this past year has shown us how important education is to the social and emotional well-being of our students and staff. I would continue the work to encourage legislators to recognize and support this need. Equity in education is also vitally important for the successful future of our students and state, and I will continue efforts to identify disparities and ensure all Michigan students receive an excellent education. I truly believe we need to regain more local control in our districts to make the informed decisions that most certainly have an impact on the education of our students.

I currently have the distinct privilege of serving Michigan districts as President of the MASB, preceded by service as President-Elect and Vice President. In my 6 years as a Director, I have also served on the Executive, Finance, Policy, and Resolutions and Bylaws Committees. For two years I served as Chair of the Government Relations Committee, and I was also appointed by the State Board of Education to serve three years on the Special Education Advisory Committee, which provides input to the State Board and the Michigan Department of Education on the needs of our students with special challenges.

It would be an honor to continue serving our members on the Board of Directors for the MASB, an organization that has had an immense impact on my abilities to serve in our local school district. Advocating for the education of all students in Michigan has been a privilege. My current seat for Tri County Area Schools continues through 2026, and I am humbled to be nominated by our board to continue representing our Region 3 Districts.

*Incumbent

Ryan L. Good

Hesperia Community Schools, Oceana County



Time served on this board: 10 years Offices held: President, Vice President and Secretary MASB Certification:

Election Statement:

I am an attorney and own my own practice, Good Law, PLC, in Hesperia. Prior to that I was an award-winning newspaper reporter and editor.

I am a board member of my local chamber of commerce, as well as a member of my local chapter of the Knights of Columbus. I spend time in my professional life helping families reunite where CPS has been involved. I understand at-risk children because I represent them. I am also versed on school law and related issues (although, full disclosure, when such issues present themselves, the first thing I say is call the school's attorney). I do not practice specifically in school law, but I have aided our district in legal issues from time to time.

In my previous career, I covered governments, and served as a "watchdog" for my readers' interests. I learned in that job how to ask tough questions. Like I said, I own my own practice in town as well. I'm well aware, being a business owner, the issues facing our kids and what the market is going to look like for many of them after they leave our halls.

But more important than all of that; I'm a parent. My wife and I have one child in his second year at Central Michigan University (Fire Up Chips!); a senior in high school; and a third-grader. We instill in our children the value of hard work at their education.

It's a common cliché to say to whom much is given much is expected, but I believe I have a duty to give back, because I have been so fortunate. I'm aware of public perception from my experience in the media, I understand the function and interplay of law, policy, and procedure, and I see directly the needs of some of our most at-risk youth.

I believe I can be of value to the MASB board. My concerns about education are relatively simple: providing our kids the best chance to succeed under current budgetary constraints and an ever changing marketplace.

Diane Ybarra

Holland Public Schools, Ottawa County



Time served on this board: Three years Offices held: Treasurer MASB Certification:

Election Statement:

I am an alumni and lifelong resident of the Holland Public School District. I am active in the community and strive to work toward equitable access to those who are underserved in our school district and community in general. I feel that servant based leadership is critical to my work as a Human Resources Professional and the volunteer work I am engaged in. Based on the COVID impact on education, the gap in access to basic human needs has become more apparent in our community, county and state, particularly in the populations of people of color and lower income families. I have served on other non-profit boards and strive to make a difference by collaborating with others who are passionate about growth and development for the community as a whole. If elected to the MASB Board of Directors, I would strive to work closely with other state representatives to bring forward issues impacting the education and wellness of students and families. I would look forward to learning from others lessons of success and opportunities for improvements.

Janice Holz*

Huron ISD, Huron County



Time served on this board: 27 years

Offices held: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

Time served on another board: 25 years, Bad Axe Public Schools

Offices held: 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:

Public Education is the Foundation of our Society. I have a passion to maintain excellence in Public Education. I draw upon my years of experience as a local and ISD board member and as a current MASB Director to analyze and approach educational issues from many viewpoints.

We must continue to work together, and to advocate to address the issues facing our school districts such as: State Funding, Declining Enrollment, Higher Academic Standards, Shortage of Teachers, Increasing Student Achievement, and Ensuring Equitable Education for all students. I am a board member who cares deeply about the education of all children, and I see the need to increase the engagement of the entire school community in the Advocacy of Public Education. I strongly believe the foundation of our state is the Education of our youth.

The events of this year have taught us all the importance of communities and school boards supporting, collaborating, trusting, and respectfully working together. Ensuring all of our students have devices and Internet Access for online learning is essential to navigate this unprecedented school year as well as future years.

I will continue to be a part of the process to find solutions, and continue to work on my leadership skills if reelected to the MASB Board of Directors. I believe in the mission of the Michigan Association of School Boards to provide high-quality educational leadership services to all Michigan Boards of Education, and to advocate for an equitable and exceptional public education for all students.

*Incumbent

Martin "Marty" Ray

Grand Blanc Community Schools, Genesee County



Time served on this board: 12 years

Offices held: 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:

A drive to get involved and make things better. Advocating for our youth, because they are owners of the world, I want to grow old in. Knowledge to know that even if things are good or even great, that all things change, and we must continue to look for innovation and improvement; change is constant. These are some of the reasons why I wish to be on the MASB Board of Directors.

I have 12+ years of School Board experience in a large school district. I grew up in a rural small district. It has been my privilege to represent my district in our county School Board organization and serve as Vice President and President. I served on the MASB Bylaws and Policies committee when we drove the separation of best practices and legislative priorities so they could be leveraged and consumed better. I have also served on the MASB Legal Trust Fund Committee. I also served as an MASB Mentor while that program ran. I worked in Michigan the past 31 years as an Enterprise Architect in IT. I am involved in my community as a Scout leader and a First Robotic Mentor, as well as many roles in the past.

My view to the future for MASB is to continue to drive innovation and advocacy for our School Board members by providing them the knowledge and resources to deal with constant change. To build on our strong MASB foundation while staying true to and focused on our primary objectives.

As your representative on the MASB Board I will leverage my knowledge and experience to advocate for our School Boards and their members. I will work to create a two-way dialog with each district in the Region by initiating that contact and opening the door. I look forward to the privilege and opportunity to serve.

Thank you for your support!

Pamela Dickinson

Comstock Public Schools, Kalamazoo County



Time served on this board: Six years

Offices held: President, Secretary and Treasurer

MASB Certification: Certified Boardmember Award Award of Merit Award of Distinction

Election Statement:

I am running for the MASB Board of Directors for Region 6. I believe that in our current social climate, I can bring a fresh outlook and a diverse perspective to the board. I have strong leadership, communication and creative analytical skills that make me a well-equipped for this position.

I am a strong advocate for public education, and I feel wholeheartedly that Kalamazoo County needs to be represented on the board of MASB as innovative leaders in education for region six.

The qualifications that make me an idea candidate is that I am an award winning, community conscious professional with 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership. I feel that my experience and skills are uniquely aligned to contribute to the governance team and the mission of MASB. Thank you for your consideration.

Ella Harrington

Covert Public Schools, Van Buren County



Time served on this board: Two years

Offices held: Treasurer

MASB Certification: Certified Boardmember Award Award of Merit

Election Statement:

I am Ella Harrington, a current school board member and the treasurer for the Covert Public School District. I have served on the school board for a total of 2 years, and I worked for the state of Michigan in public service for over 30 years. I am applying for a position on the Michigan Association of School Boards board of directors, because I have a strong passion for education and I desire to enhance my knowledge and experiences; while being part of a team that is the frontline to develop policy and implement procedures to advance schools and communities across the State of Michigan.

As a public servant, I commit myself to staying actively engaged in my community by volunteering and working to ensure the voices of others are heard. I have been involved in various organizations and committees and held leadership positions: Van Buren Civic Organization, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Community Action Program, UAW local 6000, Civil & Human Rights, Education, Labor Relations, Grievances and Miss Southwest Michigan Scholarship program.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Family Life Education and an Associate degree in Business Administration Management. My experiences and my education have prepared me to take on a leadership role within the MASB, and I am excited for the opportunity to connect and share ideas and educational values with board members across the state.

I believe that it is important for students to learn and experience all they can. I am an advocate for equitable, accessible, and quality education for all.

All learning begins at home, however the communities, schools, board members, administrators, and teachers play a significant role in shaping educational growth and experiences. We must work together to grow and strengthen our schools throughout the state. In this fast-changing society, we are frontline workers building the future with confidence. I would be honored to serve on the MASB board of directors because it allows the opportunity to develop initiatives that prioritize diversity, unity, teamwork, and network. In addition, I would engage in sharing and enhancing innovative ideas, to improve schools and communities across the state. By engaging in continuous professional development and working with people of various ethnicities and socioeconomic classes, I am certain that I will be able to help my district and other districts implement creative ideas for schooling while in the 21st century.

Don Myers*

Harper Creek Community Schools, Calhoun County



Time served on this board: 10 years

Offices held: Vice President

MASB Certification:

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

Election Statement:

Because we are currently amid the most challenging time facing public education, I am seeking re-election to the MASB Board of Directors. Educating all students, as well as working with teachers and support personnel, has been my passion for 48 years. My goal is to work with MASB's staff and directors to strengthen and creatively maximize student learning during and after the pandemic.

Throughout my career, I worked as a teacher, as an Instructional Specialist, as a secondary principal, as a superintendent, and as a mentor for new superintendents. In 10 years of retirement, I was active as a substitute teacher, as an interim principal, and as a grant monitor for the State. I currently serve my community as a school board member for Harper Creek Community Schools, having attained the Master Diamond Award level. I received a certificate of achievement as an Advocacy Skills Specialist. This training will support my efforts to advocate for all students and Board members. In 2019 I was elected to the MASB Board of Directors, representing Region 6. As a Board member, I work on MASB's finance and policy committees and actively represent MASB on the State's Special Education Advisory Committee, currently as an alternate.

I am active in my local community as well as the state-wide education community. I monitored schools with our legislators and governor to advocate for our students and local districts regarding new education legislation.

On a personal level, I am married to a retired elementary teacher and administrator and the father of two daughters. One daughter is a secondary school teacher in Ionia County and the other is a Community Initiatives Officer with the Battle Creek Community Foundation. My favorite role is being the proud Grandpa of six, ages 22 to 1. I also volunteer as a Dive Rescue Specialist for the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office.

I am honored to be considered to serve an additional term on the MASB Board of Directors, representing Region 6. If re-elected, my focus will be to work within the MASB board of directors to help our districts provide the best education possible for all public-school students during and after the pandemic. My advocacy will support the MASB's work to provide an equitable education for all students which includes equitable funding for every school.

*Incumbent

Dexter Community Schools, Washtenaw County

Mara Greatorex



Time served on this board: Two years Offices held: Vice President and Secretary

MASB Certification:

Election Statement:

Our educational system should be a top priority in our government. Every child has a right to a great education no matter what city, town, or village they live in and that happens when each district is funded properly and equitably. I also strongly believe that every student who walks into their school should feel safe and included.

Many students, especially middle school and high school students are facing extreme pressures, both academic and social, and often look to the schools for support. Realizing, easing and assisting those pressures should also be one of our top priorities.

Matt Maciag

Pinckney Community Schools, Livingston County



Time served on this board: Three years Offices held: Vice President MASB Certification:

Election Statement:

I'm looking to serve on the MASB Board of Directors to help ensure Lansing as well as all individuals in Michigan understand the importance of a strong, equal, and well-funded education system. I spent over 15 years in public education before moving on to now nearly 10 years with General Motors. My background provides me an understanding of how schools operate, what their needs are, and the goals of education along with a blend of what our students need to succeed in corporate America.

During my career in public education, I served four different school districts and one public university where I was able to contribute to the better use of technology and the development of early online courses. Fast forward to what has occurred over the last year and I feel that my experiences are now more relevant than ever. The changes we have seen in education this year will have long-term impacts on how we view and deliver education to our students. I feel I have a skillset that will help MASB grapple with this new reality and succeed in helping our Michigan districts deliver a stronger education.

My experiences outside of education have enhanced my desire to help our education system grow. Having spent my entire life in Michigan, working for Michigan businesses both small and large, I feel can translate the needs our economy to what our education system can deliver. By focusing on our policies and strategies as an educational institution, we can assist our state in its goals of retaining a strong, healthy workforce.

I'm concerned with how balanced our education system is, how it's perceived amongst the general population, and how it's funded. There were many challenges before 2020 and now many of those same challenges have been exacerbated. It's our responsibility to dig deep, work hard, and help make the necessary systemic changes for all students to succeed. My hope is that I can serve my district for years to come and through this nomination, I hope to have a chance to serve my state as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kenneth Stahl

Brighton Area Schools, Livingston County



Time served on this board: Six years

Offices held: Secretary and Treasurer

MASB Certification: Certified Boardmember Award Award of Merit

Election Statement:

I have been privileged to serve on the Brighton School Board of Education for the past six years. In that time, I have had the opportunity to serve in many positions. I have served as the board's treasurer, Facilities and Bond Committee Chair, Safe Schools Committee Board, Delegate to the MASB Leadership Conference, and am currently in my third and final year on the MASB Government Relations Committee.

Almost immediately upon becoming a board member, I became involved with MASB, and took advantage of as many educational opportunities as I could handle. I obtained my Certified Board Member status. This gave me a great wide angle view of what to expect and how to be a better board member. It was a great way to meet board members throughout the state and see what challenges they were facing. I continued taking more advanced classes, meeting more people and expanding my view of education in Michigan, eventually earning Merit status.

My time on the Government Relations Committee has been one of the best experiences I have had as a board member. I became knowledgeable of how legislature impacts education. Jennifer Smith and her crew work diligently to keep ahead of the ever changing legislative challenges that our education system is continuously hit with. As committee members we are kept in the loop and encouraged to contact our representatives and tell them what our district board concerns are. I know the value in having these communications and I have had many conversations with my representatives. I am confident these conversations have had a positive impact on education.

In addition, my CBA education experiences and time spent on committee at MASB has served my District board well. I have kept them informed with valuable information and helped to get their concerns heard. I feel my next step of service is to reach out to my fellow region board members in the same way.

I would be honored to represent my fellow region seven board members. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Jack Temsey

Potterville Public Schools, Eaton County



Time served on this board: Seven years Offices held: Secretary Time served on another board: Six years, Eaton RESA 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:

As a Board of Education Trustee, I feel we are the voice for our children. We need to utilize that voice to ensure we can offer them the education that they deserve, regardless of the struggles we face behind the scenes. We need to direct that voice to those that create legislation when we feel it will adversely affect public education and remember to offer praise to those that show us favor and offer to help. I believe the voice of our boards and communities can make a difference.

I have strived to become the best Board member that I could be. The way I have tried to accomplish this was to become certified through MASB's CBA program. I have gained a wealth of knowledge by attending classes, conferences and other various events as well as networking with board members from around the state.

Public education is as diverse as our country; there is no single fix-all solution that works for all schools. I feel bringing the voice of small communities and small districts is important. I would like to continue advocating to provide adequate and equitable funding for ALL districts. Adequate funding is sufficient funding to provide basic schooling. Equitable funding is based on fairness.

I have served the Potterville Public Schools Board of Education for six years. During that time, I have served on the Policy and Technology Committee and as Secretary. I have been an Eaton RESA Trustee for five years, serving on the Building & Grounds and Finance & Audit Committees as well as Secretary, Vice President, two terms as President and currently as Treasurer.

I have additionally served MASB as a member of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee, Government Relations Committee also served as its Vice Chairman, currently serving on the By-laws and Resolution committee.

I would be honored to serve on the MASB Board of Directors, to represent you, our Region and our students and bring your voices to the table to further benefit the future for public education.

Dale Wingerd*

Clinton Community Schools, Lenawee County



Time served on this board: 15 years

Offices held: President and Secretary

MASB Certification:

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

Election Statement:

All learners deserve the best education possible and I believe that every person matters. It was my desire to serve on the Board of Directors for MASB to further contribute to quality education and experiential learning for every person. I have served as Region 7 Director for the last three years and School Board member for nearly 15 years. I have vast experience in dealing with the changing demands of education, difficult economic times, and meeting the needs of every student. During my tenure at the Clinton Community Schools Board of Education, I served in the role of Secretary for one year and held the office of President for 7 years. My passion for public education is further evidenced by my efforts in professional development (Master Diamond Certification), as well as my roles as Lenawee County Association School Board, District Representative (10 years), where I served as the President for several years and also held offices of Treasurer and President Elect. Additionally, I have held leadership roles in my professional life that include Manager and Store Director. However, my most important roles are that of a husband of 35 years and parent of three children. Sadly, we lost our daughter Kassie to Leukemia in 2011; although her passing inspired me to continue my journey to help all students achieve at their maximum potential. If re-elected to the MASB Board of Directors, my hope is to work with the great leaders in our State to continue the quest for the best education possible for all persons.

*Incumbent

Sandra Dukhie

Ferndale Public Schools, Oakland County



Time served on this board: Four years Offices held: Vice President MASB Certification:

Election Statement:

Education is said to be the great equalizer but has struggled to level the playing field since the very beginning. I believe, as board members, we are in a position to set education on a path to excellence for all by way of equity and inclusion.

I am pleased to write to you today regarding my application to serve on the MASB Board of Directors. I believe my passion combined with my experience make me an exceptional candidate for the position.

I believe diversity, equity and inclusion work is necessary and imperative. Serving my community as a school board member, challenges me to look at all decisions that cross our Board table through an equity lens which led to my co-authoring of our district's resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. I take pride in educating while walking alongside others on their journey to our collective responsibility of ensuring equity for all. I am an active member and participant of the Oakland County Council for Diversity Equity and Inclusion. This past summer I hosted and facilitated a 30-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge via social media, adapted from Eddie Moore Jr.'s 21-day challenge.

I am a natural leader. Not only have I worked in public education since 1999, I have been an active parent in the education of my five sons which led me to seek a board seat for my school district. I was appointed to the Ferndale School Board in March of 2017 and then elected for my current term in the November 2018 election. Community members selected me to chair the Ferndale Inclusion Network, an organization whose mission is intent on building a more diverse and inclusive community.

I would like to serve on the MASB Board of Directors because I believe I will bring a different perspective and a much needed lens on equity and inclusion.

Mary Hanser

Oxford Community Schools, Oakland County



Time served on this board: Two years

Offices held:

MASB Certification: Certified Boardmember Award Award of Merit

Election Statement:

I wish to serve on the MASB Board to actively advocate for and support Region 8 districts, and work with other school board members to make Michigan a public school destination—because we have equitable funding and educational opportunities, well trained and knowledgeable school boards, and honor the value of every single student and staff member. I am relatively new in the school board world and bring a forward thinking perspective to the table.

I currently serve on the Oakland County School Board Association (OCSBA) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and the OCSBA Government Relations Committee. Within my first two years of board service I have earned my CBA Certification and Award of Merit and recently completed the coursework for the Advocacy Skills Specialty.

My previous service to the community includes high school robotics team mentor, FIRST Robotics Competition volunteer, and the Macomb County Commission on Women.

My background is in business, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Walsh College. I have worked in the non-profit sector as well as in the corporate world and small business.

Birgit McQuiston

Lake Orion Community Schools, Oakland County



Time served on this board: Nine years

Offices held: Vice President and Secretary

MASB Certification:

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

Election Statement:

I was first elected to the Lake Orion Board of Education in May of 2011. My passion for education was ignited as I volunteered in my children's classroom. That passion grew as I worked on School Improvement Teams and the District Improvement Team. I ran for the board of education in order to preserve the integrity of the work of our board, and today that passion burns brighter than ever. My board work includes the policy, curriculum, board self-assessment, superintendent evaluation, and Lamp of Learning committees, and the Government Relations Committee and Diversity Equity and Inclusion Representative to our county association. I have served as president, vice president and secretary. I've traveled to Lansing to address the senate and house education committees to advocate for local control and against unfunded mandates. I was elected to my third term this past November and am honored to continue serving our students and community.

I became interested in the work of the Oakland County School Boards Association (OCSBA) by attending meetings and broadened my professional development (PD) while connecting with other trustees. I am currently serving in my third year on the OCSBA Board of Directors (BOD), have been the secretary for two years, and am on the meeting planning committee. My drive to be a part of the OCSBA BOD has been to help broaden the scope of our work with the 201 trustees of Oakland County. Even amidst a pandemic, we are increasing the opportunities to connect and to provide relevant PD.

My pursuit of excellence led me to earn my Master Diamond Award in 2019. I was appointed to the MASB Resolutions & Bylaws Committee in 2018. I am running for the MASB BOD to be a part of the on-going work of developing board leaders and in advocating for equitable and exceptional public education for ALL students. I want to help maintain the integrity of board work and am a strong proponent of local control. I seek to serve region 8 as a visible and accessible director who will collaborate with all trustees in our region.

I am a founding and current member of Blessings in a Backpack – Lake Orion, which provides weekend food for at-risk students facing food insecurity. I have also been active within our community since March in helping provide resources and delivering food to community members at risk of food insecurity.

Gina Walker

New Haven Community Schools, Macomb County



Time served on this board: 10 years

Offices held: President

MASB Certification: Certified Boardmember Award Award of Merit Award of Distinction Master Boardmember Award Master Diamond Award

Election Statement:

I have served in an elected position in public education for 10 years, four of which I served as President of New Haven Community Schools Board of Education. I am interested in helping provide opportunities for School Board Members on current challenges and obstacles facing public education. I have been active in my county association as well as in the MASB and have earned the Master Diamond Award for education credits. I am hoping to have a positive impact for both Region 8 and public education across the state. I welcome the opportunity to bring back and share information to Region 8, as well as share ideas from my region with other members of the Board of Directors. I have a Bachelor of Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University with a focus in Accounting and Internal Auditing. I look forward to the opportunity to represent and support my region as a member of the MASB Board of Directors. 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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