
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, Iosco 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 questions? Contact Cheryl Huffman at 517.327.5915 or chuffman@masb.org.

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)

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.

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)

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.

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)

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.

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)

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.