



MASB  
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOL BOARDS



BOARD *of*  
DIRECTORS  
ELECTIONS

2023

## 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 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, 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 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 more than 40,000.

# Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Board of Directors' Elections—Candidate Information and Email Voting Procedures</b> | 4 |
|--|---|

## **Region 1 (Three-Year Term)**

|                    |                                    |   |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Brad Baltensperger | Houghton-Portage Township Schools  | 5 |
| <b>Kurt Perron</b> | <b>Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD</b> | 6 |

## **Region 2 (Three-Year Term)**

|                 |                                  |   |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Nicolette Brown | Northwest Education Services     | 7 |
| Doug Parkes     | Manistee ISD                     | 8 |
| Kenneth Stahl   | McBain Rural Agricultural School | 9 |

## **Region 5 (Three-Year Term)**

|                      |   |    |
|----------------------|---|----|
| Richard E. Hill      | Kearsley Community Schools                | 10 |
| <b>James Johnson</b> | <b>Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools</b> | 11 |

Note: Incumbents are **bolded**

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

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

The MASB Board of Directors is comprised of 22 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 and 5. If you're unsure of your district's region or group, please see the list on page 2.**

- **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, Shepherd Public Schools and Gratiot-Isabella RESD, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**

**Voting in Regions 1, 2 and 5** 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. 27, 2023. 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 1, 2023.**

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 17, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting, which newly elected directors should plan to attend.

To summarize:

- Ballot deadline is **1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.**
- 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](mailto: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 Cheryl Huffman at 517.327.5915 or [chuffman@masb.org](mailto:chuffman@masb.org).

## Region 1 (Three-Year Term)

**Brad Baltensperger**

**Houghton-Portage Township Schools, Houghton County**



**Time served on this board:** 34 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:**

The Michigan Association of School Boards is the essential resource for school board members as they lead their districts. MASB provides ongoing learning for school board members across the state so they can do their jobs. And MASB brings the concerns of school boards to the legislature and the media. The Board of Directors helps guide these activities. With effective leadership from Upper Peninsula members of the Board, our concerns will receive the attention they deserve.

Michigan schools continue to struggle with many challenges—unfunded mandates from the legislature, inadequate funding, and attacks from opponents of public schools. MASB should be focusing on several issues that are of particular concern to UP schools— equitable funding based on the needs of each district, addressing high transportation costs in rural districts, finding solutions to the shortage of teachers and staff, getting control of retirement costs, and creating parity for rural schools.

To ensure that our voices are heard, UP members of the Board of Directors must be familiar with these issues and they must be directly engaged in these discussions. When I served as president of MASB I helped establish the Accountability Task Force that brought numerous education organizations together to find areas of common interest. I also led an initiative that resulted in MASB board members being elected regionally, rather than at-large. In my years of service to MASB I was diligent in attending the six board meetings and numerous committee meetings each year, in spite of our distance from Lansing. If elected, I will continue that time commitment and will effectively speak up for the needs of UP schools.

## Region 1 (Three-Year Term)

**INCUMBENT**

**Kurt Perron**

**Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD, Chippewa County**



**Time served on this board:** Three years

**Offices held:** Secretary and Treasurer

**Time served on another board:** Five years, Brimley Area Schools

**Offices held:** President

**MASB Certification:**

Certified Boardmember Award  
Award of Merit

### **Election Statement:**

I have been a concerned parent of several school children here in Region 1 and also have been an elected school board official for both the Brimley Area Schools as board member and Board President, and currently as an elected director for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District. I have been an active and vocal member of the MASB for the past 3 years and I believe I have gained valuable insight and experience that will be needed to continue to represent you, your children, your school district, its educators and communities as we continue to work together to build the safest and best school environment we can. I will continue to work to advocate for the adequate funding of and appropriate policies for our district that will help our schools fulfill this and many other of the vital missions that are needed to properly educate our students here in Michigan's Region 1/ Upper Peninsula. I appreciate your vote and support.

Thank You,

Kurt Perron, BOD EUPISD/ MASB Region 1 Director

## Region 2 (Three-Year Term)

**Nicolette Brown**

**Northwest Education Services, Grand Traverse County**



**Time served on this board:** Three years

**Offices held:**

**Time served on another board:** Six years, Benzie County Central Schools

**Offices held:** President, Vice President and Secretary

**MASB Certification:**

### **Election Statement:**

Education is a constant evolution that is fueled by the standards of law that are built by our state government. This is one form of production that I feel is in constant movement and unfortunately, those who make the decisions are not integrated with those on the front lines.

Boards of education throughout our state have been working towards improving schools every day. But truly, they oversee four things in their district: curriculum, finance, policy, and superintendent. Three of those items are guided by legal teams and legislation. We as an organization need to give the tools to the seven members of these boards to allow them to complete their job and give them all the means they need to do so.

With my time on my district school board and ISD school board, I have always relied on the MASB to be my beacon in these times of uncertainty. One thing I believe needs to be focused on is the differences between urbanized districts and rural districts. Through some of the training I took with the MASB, the distinction between the different areas is prominent. I don't believe we should segregate education but offer tools for both. When I go to a finance workshop and have a presenter talking about a \$75 million dollar budget, it is hard for me as a rural district to make a comparison to that and all that is needed to understand when I am working with a \$14 million dollar budget.

After my term ended at my local district, I wanted to still work with those that are helping their districts. I know MASB is a great organization and I always have the belief that I can help make the best better! I have decided to raise my hand and step in the ring because I want to be a part of the change and resource that will help guide our local districts and ISDs in the 21st century. I want to represent my rural region and all the thousands of square miles it encompasses. I want to be the rural advocate at the table, even though our population numbers are lower than most regions, I want to be a voice for everyone in my region.

## Region 2 (Three-Year Term)

**Doug Parkes**

**Manistee ISD, Manistee County**



**Time served on this board:** 15 years

**Offices held:** President, Vice President and Treasurer

**Time served on another board:** Three years, Onekama Consolidated/Five years, Manistee Area Public

**Offices held:** President, Vice President and Treasurer

**MASB Certification:**

### **Election Statement:**

#### Ideas and Concerns About Education

Number one on my list is adequate funding for all schools whether they are Pre K - 12 or an ISD. Adequate funding can include the base allowance, offsetting transportation costs, before and after school programs, CTE, special staffing needs, fully funded mandates, infrastructure, retirement costs, etc. I firmly believe Pre-K - 12 & ISD funding should be the priority for funds coming out of the School Aid Fund.

The Governor's State-Wide task force I served on looked at, having the K-12 Schools work with the local Community Colleges to offer a dual enrollment that would extend high school graduation by one year, but at the end of that additional year the student would graduate with both a High School diploma and an Associate's Degree. Students completing this program would be able to begin working as a degreed individual or enter a four-year college as a junior a year ahead of their peers who followed the traditional path. To say nothing of saving two years tuition. Obviously, a lot of details would need to be worked out, but it is definitely a possibility and would benefit a number of students.

#### Experience

My work life includes approximately 25 years of bank lending and senior administration and more than 20 years of real estate and fee-based appraisal experience. My wife has owned and operated a retail store for 28 years, so I have spent time helping there when needed.

I have always been actively involved. I have experience serving on three school boards, the City Housing Commission, Governor's Talent Investment Board, Networks Northwest, Manistee County Medical Care Board, City of Manistee Oil & Gas Investment Board, and many others. I served three years on MASB's Resolutions and Bylaws Committee and am currently a member of the MASB Government Relations Committee.

#### Why Do I Wish To Serve On The MASB Board Of Directors

With all we have been thru the last several years and looking to the future we need to be in the forefront representing our members and making sure they are well informed and represented. I will be a positive voice for Region 2 and will represent all districts in this Region, large or small, Pre-K - 12 or ISD, to the best of my ability and I will be available to discuss your questions, concerns, and ideas.

Thank you for your consideration.



## Region 2 (Three-Year Term)

**Kenneth J. Stahl**

**McBain Rural Agricultural School, Missaukee County**



**Time served on this board:** 18 years

**Offices held:** President and Vice President

**MASB Certification:**

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

### **Election Statement:**

My name is Kenneth Stahl and I reside in McBain with my wife of 52 years, Gail. We have four adult children; 3 wonderful in-laws and 10 superb grandchildren - all products of a loving home and Michigan's public education system. I served on the McBain Board previously from 1980-1996 - 14 of these years as Board President. I rejoined the Board in 2020 out of my desire to support the current Board as the district moved through some difficult times. I now serve as Board VP. I have served, and am serving, on several community organization boards, city government councils and several faith-based organizations. I love public education. I am proud that all my family has been educated in the public school. In spite of all the challenges facing public education today, I feel it is the bedrock of society. It is the right and DUTY of every citizen to be involved in public education. As a member of the MASB Board of Directors, it would be my goal to do everything I could to promote public education in Michigan and nationally. I will devote my time, energy and resources to that end as much as humanly possible. I will always promote and defend our public education system and play my part to keep it strong. I will also do all that I can to strengthen our families as they are the crucial partner in making public education successful.

I would humbly ask for your support to become a member of the MASB Board of Directors.

Thank You!

## Region 5 (Three-Year Term)

**Richard E. Hill**

**Kearsley Community Schools, Genesee County**



**Time served on this board:** 26 years

**Offices held:** President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

**Time served on another board:** Five years, Genesee Intermediate School District

**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:**

For the past 26 years, I've had the opportunity to serve on 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, and the community throughout the county to provide ongoing educational opportunities for all students. When joining both Boards of Education my 3 goals are to provide a Safe and Healthy environment for all students and employees, 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 for professional development. In 2021, I was recognized by MASB Executive Director for achieving the MASB, President Award of Recognition. Last year I decided to run for the MASB Board of Directors in 2023. I feel 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 allow me the opportunity to serve on the MASB Board of Directors.

- Education
  - o BS Business Management, Central Michigan University
- Employment
  - o Worked 43 years for GM and Delphi
  - o Worked in various Staffs, Manufacturing, Purchasing, Supply Chain, Labor Relations. Retired Executive April 2016 as a Shop Director.
- School Board Experience
  - o Elected to Kearsley Board of Education, June 1995. Held all office positions. Currently Trustee.
  - o Elected to the Genesee Intermediate School, Board of Education June 2017, (GISD). Held all office positions. Currently President.
  - o Served 3 years on the MASB Government Relations Committee in Lansing.
  - o Member and former President of the Genesee County Association of School Board Members.
  - o Current member, MASB Legal Trust Fund Committee.
  - o Earned the MASB President's Award 2021.
- Community Involvement
  - o Current Substitute Teacher in Genesee County.
  - o Current Board Chairman, Davison Township Zoning Board of Appeals.
  - o Board member Vocational Independence Program. Helping those with Disabilities.
  - o School Booster volunteer for 34 years.

## Region 5 (Three-Year Term)

INCUMBENT

**James Johnson**

**Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, Genesee County**



**Time served on this board:** Nine years

**Offices held:** President and Treasurer

**MASB Certification:**

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember Award

Master Diamond Award

Master Platinum Award

**Election Statement:**

Thank you for electing me to serve as your energetic and engaged Region 5 representative on the MASB Board of Directors. It is a tremendous honor and privilege to serve as the Vice President of MASB currently while ascending to the office of President-Elect and ultimately President. My experience thus far with MASB, and as an officer, has increased my leadership abilities to most effectively represent all of you. I have been so fortunate to meet so many school board members from around the state. These relationships that I have built provide me with a tremendous perspective that gives me the grounding I need to be an effective member of the MASB Board of Directors now and into the future.

On the Board of Directors, I have served on the Government Relations Committee (including as Chair), Resolutions and Bylaws (also as Chair), and I am currently serving on the NSBA National Nominating Committee. It has been my honor to represent Michigan school board members on the national stage.

My professional experience has helped me in my role as an MASB association officer and leader as well. As a project leader in Information Technology, I have extensive problem-solving skills that translate directly to my governance role on the MASB Board of Directors. As we've faced challenges and roadblocks over the past couple of years in education and within MASB, I have never stopped persevering and our association has never been stronger as a result. In everything I do, I conduct myself with professionalism and respect and if you've had the opportunity to meet me or see me in action, you know that I try to make things fun along the way as well!

I want to thank each of you for your leadership and steadfast dedication to public education while being the voice for the children you represent. I am asking you and your board to allow me to continue to represent you and Region 5 on the MASB Board of Directors. With your vote, I will continue on the board and ascend into the role of the President-Elect for the association. Please allow me to continue what we started and continue to innovate and push new ideas for member engagement and to develop better ways we can serve all of you, our members!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions; Revjbj66@comcast.net



***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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