



MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS

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**BOARD *of*
DIRECTORS
ELECTIONS**

2024

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

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

Region 5 (Three-Year Term)

Janice Holz	Huron Intermediate School District, Huron County	5
Roshawnda Williams	Beecher Community School District, Genesee County	6

Region 6 (Three-Year Term)

Robert Becker	Barry Intermediate School District, Barry County	7
Pamela Dickinson	Comstock Public Schools, Kalamazoo County	8
Elizabeth O'Dell	St. Joseph County ISD, St. Joseph County	9
Andrew Robinson	Berrien RESA, Berrien County	10

Region 7 (Three-Year Term)

Sharon Lee	Ypsilanti Community Schools, Washtenaw County	11
Michael McVey	Saline Area Schools, Washtenaw County	12
Jack Temsey	Eaton RESA, Eaton County	13
Mary Vincent	Monroe Public Schools, Monroe County	14
Dale Wingerd	Clinton Community Schools, Lenawee County	15

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)

Melandie Hines	Wayne Westland Community Schools, Wayne County	16
Birgit McQuiston	Lake Orion Community Schools, Oakland County	17
Evelyn Pridemore	Redford Union School District, Wayne County	18

Note: Incumbents are **bolded**

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

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

The MASB Board of Directors is comprised of 24 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 (open seat), 2, 3 (one-year term), 4 (one-year term), 5, 6 (open seat), 7, 8 and Group V (one-year term). If you're unsure of your district's region or group, please see the list on page 2.

- **Region 1 has a vacant seat as no nominations were received**
- **Region 2 will continue to be represented by Dawn Kaiser, Iosco RESA, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**
- **Region 3 will continue to be represented by Rick Dernberger, Zeeland Public Schools and Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**
- **Region 4 will continue to be represented by John Tramontana, DeWitt Public Schools, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**
- **Group V will continue to be represented by Stephen Hyer, Clarkston Community Schools, (unopposed, no ballots will be sent)**

Voting in Regions 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. 26, 2024. 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 6, 2024.**

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 22, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting, which newly elected directors should plan to attend.

To summarize:

- Ballot deadline is **1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.**
- 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 Cheryl Huffman at **517.327.5915** or **chuffman@masb.org.**

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)



Melandie Hines

Wayne Westland Community Schools, Wayne County

**Time served
on this board:**

10 years

Offices held:

Vice President
and Secretary

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember Award

Election Statement:

I have served on the Wayne Westland Board of Education for 10 years. In 2018, I was able to get a \$150 million bond passed successfully in six communities: Wayne, Westland, Dearborn Heights, Romulus and Inkster. I am a Master Boardmember with MASB. Additionally, I just got a \$24.5 million bond passed for the Westwood Community Schools. I'm working on a skill trades program with the Taylor Career Technical Center. I enjoy helping to bring funds to the local school districts. I am a true public servant.

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)



Birgit McQuiston INCUMBENT

Lake Orion Community Schools, Oakland County

**Time served
on this board:**

12 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President, and
Secretary

MASB Certification:

Certified Boardmember Award

Award of Merit

Award of Distinction

Master Boardmember Award

Master Diamond Award

Master Platinum Award

President's Award of Recognition

Advocacy Specialty

Data Specialty

Election Statement:

I believe our children are our future, and advocating for their education while leading our districts is our high calling. Serving on the Lake Orion Board of Education, the Oakland County School Boards Association Board of Directors and the MASB Board of Directors is a distinct privilege that I value and am deeply committed to.

In my three years on the MASB Board of Directors, I have served on the Executive, Finance and Policy Committees. I currently serve as the Chair of the Government Relations Committee and have been appointed by the State Board of Education as the MASB representative to a three-year term on the Special Education Advisory Committee, which advises the State Board and the Michigan Department of Education on the needs of students with special challenges. I have learned so much by serving my community, county and state and hope to continue serving in these areas.

It is my desire to be a part of the ongoing work of developing outstanding board leaders and to advocate for equitable and exceptional public education for ALL students. I fully support and embrace the vision and mission of MASB. It would be an honor to continue serving Region 8 on the MASB Board of Directors.

Region 8 (Three-Year Term)



Evelyn Pridemore

Redford Union School District, Wayne County

**Time served
on this board:**

11 years

Offices held:

President, Vice
President,
Secretary and
Treasurer

Election Statement:

I have served my local district for almost 12 years and have discovered a passion for the work of creating equitable education opportunities for every student in the state of Michigan. I have been through deficit, declining enrollment and the unprecedented changes COVID brought to education. I have held every position from trustee to my current role as President. In addition, I was recently appointed to the leadership team for WCASB. I have helped guide my district through two superintendent searches, a multi-million-dollar bond initiative, served on policy, finance, curriculum and facilities committees.

On a personal note, I have a wonderful husband of 36 years, three amazing sons, two beautiful daughters-in-law and the joy of my life three awesome grandbabies. I say all of that to say this: every single child from my special needs grandson to my little baby granddaughter should have people fighting for their right to quality education. In addition to the children, the people who choose every day to enter a school building and pour into the lives this state's most valuable asset deserve to work in environments that are well funded, top in the country and where their daily sacrifices are valued.