



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JEREMY M. HUGHES, PH.D.
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 31, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate

SUBJECT: Election of National Association of State Boards of Education Board of Directors – 2006

Board members have been notified by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) that ballots for the election of NASBE Board of Directors are due by July 1, 2005.

In accordance with NASBE Bylaws, the President-elect and Secretary-Treasurer are voted upon by the general membership. The election is by a majority vote of member states, with one vote per state. Area Directors are elected by a regional majority of member states, one vote per state.

Attached is background information on the candidates for President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Central Area Director, including a resume, statement of interest, and photo. Please review the information and be prepared to discuss the election at the June 14, 2005, meeting.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

808 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3900

RECEIVED
APR 11 2005

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 6, 2005

Ms. Kathleen Straus
7431 Deep Run, #210
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

President
Kim Burningham
Utah

Past President
Robert Lazard
Indiana

President-Elect
Diane Pladmo
Montana

Secretary-Treasurer
Keith Johnson
Louisiana

Northeastern Area Directors
Claiborne Smith
Delaware

Mid-Atlantic
New Jersey

Southern Area Directors
Dusbar Brooks
Maryland

W. Bradley Bryant
Georgia

Central Area Directors
Kenneth Williard
Kansas

Jennifer Stewart
Ohio

Western Area Directors
Janet Cannon
Utah

Dana Mann-Tavegia
Wyoming

New Member Representative
Jeannine Martineau
California

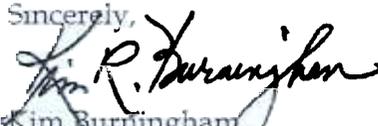
Dear Ms. Straus

As you know, the election of the 2006 NASBE Board of Directors will be completed through mail balloting. Enclosed with this letter is background information on each of the candidates for President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Area Director, including a resume and statement of interest.

In accordance with our recently amended Bylaws, President-elect and Secretary-Treasurer shall be voted upon by the general membership. They will be elected by a majority vote of member states, with one vote per state. In the case of Area Director, candidates will be elected by a regional majority of member states – again, one vote per state. **All ballots must be received at the Association Headquarters by July 1, 2005.**

I urge you to carefully review the information enclosed and to put this issue on your next board meeting agenda. A copy of this letter and the ballot have also been sent to your State Board Executive. **Remember, every state vote is very important.**

If you have any questions on the voting process, please call Marsha McMullin, Director of Special Projects, at 703/684-4000, ext. 116, or you can e-mail her at marsham@nasbe.org.

Sincerely,

Kim Burningham
President

cc: State Executive ✓

Enclosures

P.S. Beginning May 16, the NASBE website will display a list of states that have submitted ballots to headquarters. Only the fact that a state has voted will be shown, but not how it voted.

277 South Washington Street
Suite 100
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703-684-4000
FAX 703-836-2313
E-Mail: boards@nasbe.org
Web site: www.nasbe.org

BALLOT
Central Area

Please choose one candidate for each office.

For President-elect:

- Brad Bryant, Georgia
- Jennifer Stewart, Ohio

For Secretary-Treasurer:

- Robert Lazard

For Central Area Director:

- Ken Willard, Kansas

VOTING STATE: _____



Mr. Bryant is currently President of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA), and has also served as GSBA Vice-President, District 4 Director, Governmental Operations Committee member, and Federal Relations Network member. He is currently the president of the National School Boards Association's Southern Region, covering the fourteen southeastern states. Additionally, Bryant is on the Office of Education Accountability Report Card Committee, the Georgia Closing the Gap Commission, and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education.

William Bradley Bryant
Fourth Congressional District
P.O. Box 450648
Atlanta, GA 31145
Tel: (770) 938-7000
FAX: (770) 493-1023
bbryant911@aol.com

Brad Bryant has a bachelor's degree from Presbyterian College in South Carolina, a master's degree from the University of Georgia in business administration with a concentration in real estate finance, and a degree of juris doctor from Mercer University (cum laude). He is an attorney and a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Mr. Bryant is an elder in the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church. He is a past member of the board of directors of the A*R*T Station, the DeKalb County Development Impact Fee Study Committee and the Board of Directors of the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce. He served as the District Chairman of the DeKalb District of the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Leadership DeKalb, and served as the chair of Leadership DeKalb from 1992 to 1997. He is currently co-chair of that organization. He serves on the Executive Board of Young Life Northlake. He received the Georgia Department of Education 1990 Positive Parenting Award for Henderson Mill School. He and his wife, Kay, served as co-presidents of the Henderson Mill Elementary PTA. They have two children, Benjamin, 22, and Katherine, 18.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

In reviewing the reasons I set forth in my Statement of Interest for the Area Director position, I submitted that NASBE's role was threefold: 1. NASBE is the glue that holds together State Boards of Education; 2. NASBE's advocacy effort for the effective practice of educational governance within a diverse environment of collaborative partners must set the standard within this Nation; and, 3. NASBE must both believe and model the principle that we can not afford to leave a single child behind in our efforts to provide quality educational delivery in this Nation. I wish to affirm those three goals within this Statement of Interest and expand upon the increased leadership role required of the positions of President-Elect, President and Past President.

Effective leadership in an association requires a commitment to relationships and collaboration as opposed to a titular or positional role. NASBE is fortunate to currently have that leadership in place and I wish to build upon those who currently serve. Our organizational effectiveness rests upon the work ethic and vision of a second-tier volunteer base - that is, we first put ourselves in the position of public servant in our state board roles and we, thus, volunteer a second time in our service to NASBE. There is little room for ego and virtually no room for delegation without the willingness to expend as much energy as an officer as any member on the Board of Directors, Study Groups, GAC or staff. I understand that relational leadership requirement having served in Georgia's state school board association in the same roles. In many ways, it is the most regarding work one will ever do because partisanship and pettiness often found in positional organizations gives way to a shared organizational vision.

Effective leadership in the next three years will require an understanding of the role that the State Board plays in a State's educational framework and an ability to articulate that to NASBE's partners as well as a continuous reinforcement of that role to our own membership. In my opinion, State Boards are the linchpin for educational improvement. As Boards we must provide unbiased information in a transparent manner to our partners and stakeholders. The bottom line reward for NASBE will be a clarity of relevance within our own membership and the larger community. Our power will not be based upon the importance of our position as seen by our eyes, but the importance of our ability to provide a communications highway for our partners - as seen through their eyes. I have had that opportunity both as a Chair of a school district of 100,000 students and a state organization of almost 1,200 local board members. I understand the need for effective change, transparency of vision and work and the delivery of unbiased information to assist in hard decisions.

Effective leadership will also require a commitment to the judicious investment of limited resources. NASBE's current leadership has set a high standard for making difficult decisions regarding the sound fiscal use of its revenues. In my observations, I see an organization that fully understands the power of driving each and every dollar to the vision and mission of the organization. As a small businessman, as a state and local board member, as a member of my local church board, that practice of stewardship of other peoples' precious resources is one of great comfort to me. I look forward to working with the Board and NASBE's outstanding staff in growing the investment pool in ways not yet uncovered and, once identified, using that same stewardship to reinvest in our mission.

Effective leadership within an association such as ours also requires an appreciation for the staff for their untiring efforts on behalf of a membership that they sometimes never meet. It is has been my privilege and pleasure to get to know this staff and I will work as hard as possible to ensure that they are given opportunities to demonstrate their abilities and that we use our collective efforts as a Board to fairly reward them for the service they bring to the organization.

State Board Vice President Jennifer H. Stewart is a former teacher in the Zanesville school system. She holds a B.A. from Muskingum College and an M.A. from The Ohio State University. Stewart is a past president of the Zanesville City Board of Education and of the Mid-East Ohio Vocational Board of Education. Other offices she has held include chair of Goodwill Industries' Executive Board and president of the Zanesville Alumni Association. Married for 33 years and the mother of five children, Stewart has also been involved with the Boy Scouts, the James Madison Family Literacy Center, The Ohio State University's Advocates Organization, and her local PTO. She is, as well, a past member of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA). While with OSBA, Stewart received that organization's Master School Board Member designation. She was also designated the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education's 2004 Person of the Year.

In 2003-2004, Stewart co-chaired the Board's Capacity Committee and also held membership on the Joint Council of the Ohio Board of Regents and State Board of Education. Earlier, she served as a member of Governor Bob Taft's Commission on Teaching Success. Stewart has been active in the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) since becoming a State Board member and served on NASBE's Lost Curriculum Study Group in the recent past. This year, she is NASBE's Central Area Director.

As representative of the Ninth State Board District, Stewart serves part of Ashland, Athens, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Guernsey, Hocking, Knox, Licking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, part of Pickaway, Richland, and Washington counties. Her term expires on December 31, 2008.



Jennifer H. Stewart

State Board District 9

2775 Martin Road
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

(740) 452-4558 (voice)

(740) 452-7754 (fax)

Email

**Part of Ashland, Athens,
Coshocton, Delaware,
Fairfield, Guernsey,
Hocking, Knox, Licking,
Meigs, Monroe, Morgan,
Morrow, Muskingum,
Noble, Perry, part of
Pickaway, Richland, and
Washington counties**

**STATEMENT FROM JENNIFER H. STEWART REGARDING
HER NOMINATION AS NASBE PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Name: Jennifer H. Stewart

State: Ohio

Address: 2775 Martin Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701

Telephone: (740) 452-7754

It would be an honor for me to serve as NASBE's President-elect. I believe the wide range of experiences that I have had in education have given me a solid preparation for the responsibilities that our President-elect is expected to fulfill.

I earned my B.A. from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, and an M.A. from The Ohio State University. Prior to serving on Ohio's State Board of Education, it was my privilege to be involved in education as a Spanish teacher and parent, and also as both a member and president of a city board of education and vocational board of education. In 1999, I received the Ohio School Boards Association's Master School Board Member designation. These experiences have given me a wide perspective on school-related issues as well as an understanding of the challenges that school leaders face at different levels.

My activities as a State Board and NASBE member have further strengthened my qualifications for leadership. Last year, as co-chair of the Board's Capacity Committee, I worked on teacher licensure and testing issues, as well as on the development of school climate guidelines and the formation of a regional education delivery system for Ohio. I also helped lay the foundation for my state's new Educator Standards Board. Pupil transportation, Head Start, teacher recruitment and retention, and No Child Left Behind were among the other concerns that my committee addressed. Prior to 2004, I represented the State Board on its Joint Council with the Ohio Board of Regents and served on Governor Bob Taft's Commission on Teaching Success.

I have been fortunate to have my work on behalf of Ohio's schools recognized by a number of education organizations. In 2004, I received the Friend of Family Literacy Award from the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education, the Educator Friend of Foreign Languages Award from the Ohio Foreign Language Association, and the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education's Person of the Year designation.

I have been active in NASBE since my election to Ohio's State Board of Education in 2000. I served on our association's Lost Curriculum Study Group in 2002-2003, and now serve as Central Area Director. In looking to the future, I see NASBE playing an increasingly vital role in education decision-making. I feel that our group is especially well positioned to help state school leaders face the challenge of providing high-quality services with shrinking budgets. I also believe NASBE is well positioned to help state agencies meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

A promising future is on the horizon for NASBE. If we achieve that future, stronger public schools – and ultimately a stronger nation – will be our reward.



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Management
Purdue University

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

CPA, Indiana

Robert W. Lazard, CPA

Managing Executive

Public Sector Services Group

Bob has over 25 years of experience and has concentrated his efforts in the area of auditing and financial consulting for governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. His activities include:

- ✦ Audit engagement executive
- ✦ Governmental program performance consulting
- ✦ Grant compliance auditing
- ✦ Business process and operations planning
- ✦ Financial projections and forecasts
- ✦ Cost accounting system review and implementation
- ✦ Strategic planning

Bob is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Indiana CPA Society. He has served on numerous state-wide professional and governmental committees and as a director, treasurer and Board member for numerous not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities, including:

Currently

- ✦ Member of the Crowe Chizek and Company LLC Management Committee.
- ✦ Board Member of the Indiana State Board of Education
- ✦ Chairman of the Marion County Salary Review Panel
- ✦ Board Member and President – National Association of State Boards of Education

Prior Experience

- ✦ Board of Directors – Indiana Business and Modernization Technology, Inc.
- ✦ Board of Directors – Indiana CPA Society
- ✦ Chairman of the Indiana CPA Society Ethics Committee.
- ✦ Board of Directors – Indiana Environmental Institute, Inc.

Statement of Interest in serving as Treasurer of NASBE

I am currently serving as the immediate past president of the Board of Directors and am interested in continuing to work with the staff of NASBE continuing many of the initiatives that have been started in the past years. Having been on the NASBE Board of Directors in six previous years and now serving as immediate past president, I have become familiar with NASBE and the responsibilities of the Board of Directors. I have been very involved as a Board member in helping NASBE implement its Strategic Plan.

One of the aspects of the Strategic Plan where significant progress has been made is in moving toward a lesser dependence on membership dues as a source of funding. As Chair of the Financial Task Force in 2002, we developed a framework that can be used as a springboard for the creation of a new strategic plan. Helping with the implementation of the framework that was created in the Financial Task Force in 2002 as a basis for the Strategic Plan to be developed over the coming year will give NASBE the ability to focus on being a true Education Policy Leadership Organization. The role of the Treasurer and leading the Finance Committee will be instrumental in assisting the staff of NASBE in carrying forward this goal.

Serving as Treasurer of NASBE and leading the Finance Committee is a significant commitment. It is a commitment that I take very seriously. I would be honored to serve as NASBE's Treasurer for 2006 - 2007.

Biographical Information Ken Willard

Kenneth R. Willard took office, representing Kansas State Board of Education District 7, in January, 2003. He was elected Legislative Coordinator for the State Board for 2005-2006. He was also appointed to the State Board Policy Committee and serves as its Chair. Ken was elected to represent the State Board of Education on the Board of Directors of the Kansas State High School Activities Association for 2003-2005, and was appointed to serve the remaining year of a two-year term on the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Boards of Education, representing the Central Region, in 2004.

Ken is a United States Navy Vietnam veteran, 1968 - 1972. He currently serves as District Manager for American Family Insurance, managing 25 agencies in south-central and southwest Kansas. He began his career with American Family in 1978, working 14 years as an agent in Topeka. He was then promoted to manager in Hutchinson in 1992. Prior business experience was with Gay and Taylor Adjusters in Topeka.

Ken earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Washburn University in Topeka, 1982. He is active in his church, and school and community organizations. He recently served 6 years on the Nickerson/South Hutchinson USD 309 board of education, two years as vice president, one as president of the board. Ken and his wife Deanna have five children and one grandchild.

Statement of Interest

The challenges faced by State Boards of Education seem greater than ever before, given the increasing demands put on public education by NCLB, the continuing financial stressed being experienced in almost every state, and the generally unfavorable impression that most people seem to have about public education, in spite of the great job that is being done. Yet, we face these squarely and eagerly, realizing that our efforts are all for the benefit of our children.

Now that the federal government is so heavily involved in public education, I see an increasingly important role for NASBE as the facilitator of communication between state and federal policymakers, as well as the private sector. We need to do a better job of communicating the value of education, and dispelling the notion that educating our children is the responsibility of public schools, alone. We must find ways to bring not only parents, but also the business community, into partnership with public schools in order to do the job right. I believe NASBE should play a leading role in encouraging and facilitating the nationwide dialogue between all stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Willard