



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 24, 2004

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate

**SUBJECT:** Election of National Association of State Boards of Education  
Board of Directors – 2005

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, 2004.

In accordance with NASBE Bylaws, the President-elect is 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 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 8, 2004, meeting.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

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# NASBE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION

RECEIVED  
APR 15 2004  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 12, 2004

Ms. Kathleen N. Straus  
8801 Kingswood, Apt. 204  
Detroit, MI 48221

Dear Ms. Straus:

As you know, the election of the 2005 NASBE Board of Directors will be completed through mail balloting. Enclosed with this letter is background information on each of the candidates, President-elect and Area Director, including a resume, statement of interest, and photo.

In accordance with our recently amended Bylaws, President-elect 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, 2004.**

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](mailto:marsham@nasbe.org).

Sincerely,



Robert Lazard  
President

cc: State Executive ✓  
Enclosures

P.S. Beginning May 7, 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.

President  
Robert Lazard  
Indiana

Past President  
Aime Allen  
Texas

President-Elect  
Kim Burningham  
Utah

Secretary-Treasurer  
Keith Johnson  
Louisiana

Northeastern Area Directors  
Claiborne Smith  
Delaware

Jo Eva Gaines  
Rhode Island

Southern Area Directors  
Jane Norwood  
North Carolina

Dunbar Brooks  
Maryland

Central Area Directors  
Beverly Peterson  
Nebraska

Herbert Moyer  
Michigan

Western Area Directors  
Diane Fladuo  
Montana

Janet Cannon  
Utah

New Member Representative  
Rico Munn  
Colorado

277 South Washington Street  
Suite 100  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703-684-4000  
FAX 703-836-2313  
E-Mail: [boards@nasbe.org](mailto:boards@nasbe.org)  
Web site: [www.nasbe.org](http://www.nasbe.org)

Brenda Lilienthal Welburn  
Executive Director

BALLOT  
Central Area

Please choose one candidate for each office.

**For President-elect:**

- Diane Fladmo, Montana

**For Central Area Director:**

- Jennifer Stewart, Ohio

VOTING STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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## BIOGRAPHY

### Diane Fladmo



My quest for a career in education began very early when, before even enrolling in kindergarten, I decided that I would be a teacher. I didn't just want to be an educator, I *needed* to be an educator. Born and raised in Montana, I received a quality public school education in Poplar, the headquarters of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. As a lifetime student of education, I worked diligently to become the best educator I could be; a quest I continue.

I obtained a double major in elementary/special education from Montana State University with graduate work in special education and education leadership at the University of Montana and Montana State University. I delighted in working eleven years as a special education teacher, teaching students, age 3-20 with myriad disabilities. I also enjoyed the challenge of directing a job-training program for students with disabilities. I take great pride in the successes of my former students and relish their visits. Since 1990 I have loved my work as the administrator of an educational cooperative serving a multi-county area in remote eastern Montana, which provides special education, curriculum development, professional development, and instruction via interactive television. Our present service area encompasses approximately fifty-thousand square miles.

In 2003, I began a new career with the University of Montana as a research associate while concurrently working my final year as a cooperative administrator. During my employment with the University, I have worked on international education projects involving national assessment systems and curriculum development, traveling to Ghana and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, I have co-directed a project funded through NASA intended to improve Montana's science curriculum through the inclusion of cutting-edge science content provided by NASA scientists that will be disseminated electronically to teachers and students throughout the state.

For the past ten years, my work as a part-time employee of Montana's Office of Public Instruction, Special Education Division, has broadened by perspective and expertise as I provided training and technical assistance, served as a compliance monitor, and facilitated dispute resolutions as a certified mediator.

My work with NASBE is incredibly rewarding. In 2001, I was honored to co-chair the NASBE study group on low performing schools, which was both rigorous and rewarding. For the past two years, I have served on the NASBE Board as a Western Region Director and have been pleased to serve on various committees, seizing opportunities to learn volumes from other experienced and capable NASBE members and NASBE's exemplary staff. I have also been privileged to represent Montana as the voting delegate for two years.

My involvement in many other organizations has provided many additional leadership opportunities. For the Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education, I served as Regional Director and state secretary/treasurer. In 1996, I was elected to serve a three-year term as a local trustee, served as joint board secretary and chaired several committees. In 1997, I was elected as a Regional Director for the Montana School Boards Association, serving on the executive and steering committees, among others. In 1998, I was appointed as a political independent to the Montana Board of Public Education (BOPE) by then Governor Marc Racicot. I am presently serving a fourth term as Vice Chair and as a member of the Executive Committee. I currently chair several committees for the Montana BOPE including Strategic Planning, Assessment, Governmental Relations, and P-20. I also enjoyed representing the BOPE on the Governor's Task Force on Teacher Shortage, the Montana Commission on Teaching, and the Montana Higher Education Economic Leadership Committee.

Aside from my educational associations, I am pleased to be serving my fifth terms as chair of our regional Child and Family Services Council as well as my third year as co-chair of the Montana Child and Family Services Council. It was through my work on these councils and service in the education community that I was able to mobilize interest in forming a Healthy Communities Coalition in Glendive. I take great pride in being a co-founder of this coalition and seeing the positive change it has made in our community and continue to serve on its steering committee.

I am married to Robert Fladmo, a Certified Public Accountant. We have three daughters, a son, and three granddaughters. I have been most fortunate to have the solid support and encouragement from my family. My greatest satisfaction in life has been to watch with wonder my children and grandchildren as they grow.

Diane Fladmo  
418 Cooke Street, Glendive, Montana 59330  
(406) 377-8737

NASBE is a superb organization with a vital mission. I am honored to have the support of the Montana Board of Education to seek a NASBE position of leadership. I wish to be considered as a candidate for NASBE President-elect. If elected, I will work diligently to provide exemplary leadership and work collaboratively with fellow members, staff, and others to insure that NASBE becomes even more effective and responsive. Together we will work assiduously to bring the updated strategic plan to fruition, while exercising judicious fiscal management in concert with the NASBE Finance and Audit Committee. NASBE is truly a great organization and I have been proud to be an effective NASBE advocate in Montana and beyond. I wish to extend the reach of my advocacy as NASBE President-elect.

I believe that education is the wind in the sail of the American dream. Our country's system of public education has helped turned millions of noble dreams into reality, but there is much more to do. Today, as our country faces daunting internal and external challenges, insuring the highest quality system of public education takes on increasingly greater importance. I believe it is through quality public education for *all* children - disabled or not, disadvantaged or not, minority or not - that our country will not only survive, but thrive.

Education is in the spotlight of domestic policy. A Gallup Poll conducted in February 2004, revealed that education and the national economy were the two most important domestic issues influencing presidential voters. While voters recognize the vital importance of a strong education system, they have joined our elected officials in a call for educational accountability. Some view this as a great challenge to public education. I view it as a great opportunity to showcase the merits of a strong system of public education and its vital importance to a healthy democracy and a robust economy. I believe that the education community, particularly NASBE, must not only embrace, but respond with alacrity to, the calls for heightened accountability. I would like to be an integral part of NASBE's response to this need by serving in a position of leadership. As a non-partisan, I believe that I can work successfully to further unite our organization creating the positive synergy needed to bring NASBE to the forefront as the lead advocacy organization for public education and lay governance.

Significantly improving our education system will involve much more than advocacy. For optimal outcomes, I believe that we must not only build and maintain strong support for public education, but also put the public back into public education. It is time to join with our elected officials, the entire education community, business, students, and the public to examine curricula, staffing needs, structure, policy, and practices to clearly determine the most effective means to secure high achievement by *all* students. Then, we must work collectively, efficiently, prudently, and tirelessly to implement these best practices through a continuous improvement model to insure that our country offers the world's best public education system to each student.

Serving my first term as Western Area Director and as chair of the 2001 NASBE study group on low performing schools has confirmed for me the tremendous value of active participation in NASBE. My service to NASBE has been extremely informative and professionally rewarding. I wish to continue serve NASBE and believe that I come with experience and skills that would allow me to contribute meaningfully and successfully. I have devoted much of my life to public education as a teacher, special education administrator, international education consultant, local school trustee, and member and vice chair of the Board of Public Education. If given this opportunity, I will bring to NASBE my experience, unwavering commitment to education, and an established record of integrity, personal accountability, proactive communication, collaborative leadership, effective education advocacy, and hard work. I would appreciate your support.

**Your  
State Board  
of  
Education  
Member**

**JENNIFER H. STEWART**

State Board District 9  
2775 Martin Road  
Zanesville, Ohio 43701  
(740) 452-4558  
FAX: (740) 452-7754  
e-mail: [jennifer.stewart@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:jennifer.stewart@ode.state.oh.us)

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 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 31 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 is also the Education Award recipient of the 2003 Muskingum Family Y Women of Achievement Award.



Stewart is a member of the Board's Resources Committee and also represents the Board on the Ohio Principal Leadership Academy Board. 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 currently serves on NASBE's Lost Curriculum Study Group.

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.

**STATEMENT FROM JENNIFER STEWART REGARDING  
HER NOMINATION AS NASBE CENTRAL AREA DIRECTOR**

It would be an honor to serve as NASBE's Central Area Director, and I believe I have qualifications that have prepared me for this position. Prior to serving on Ohio's State Board of Education, it was my privilege to be involved in education as a Spanish teacher, parent, and member of a city board of education and vocational board of education. 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 the position of Central Area Director. I currently represent the State Board on its Joint Council with the Ohio Board of Regents, and I co-chair the State Board's Resources Committee. Earlier, I served on Governor Bob Taft's Commission on Teaching Success and on NASBE's Lost Curriculum Study Group. Serving as NASBE's Central Area Director will provide a welcome opportunity for me to address a broader range of goals and issues that relate to the success and well-being of our nation's schools.

In looking to the future, I see NASBE playing an increasingly vital role in education decision-making. Reports from our study groups and data gathered through our research can enhance state educational delivery systems. NASBE is also well positioned to help state agencies address requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. As we extend our collaborative efforts into legislative, business, and community networking, our Association has the potential to become a pacesetter in public education, making significant contributions to the future of the next generation of Americans.