

# 84th Annual Business Meeting & Elections



84TH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
***MISSION: POSSIBLE***

DECEMBER 5-7, 2024  
THE BROADMOOR | CO SPRINGS



Thursday, December 5, 2024  
3:15 - 5:00 p.m.



Colorado Association  
of School Boards



**COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

2253 S. Oneida Street, Suite 300

Denver, Colorado 80224-2507

303-832-1000

[CASB.org](http://CASB.org)

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# *AGENDA*

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## **84th Annual Business Meeting**

**3:15 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Report of the Credentials Committee
4. Review election procedures and standing rules
5. Presentation and election by acclamation of uncontested candidates for the CHSAA Legislative Council
6. Presentation and election of candidates for the uncontested CASB Board of Directors seats
7. Presentation and election of candidates for the contested CASB Board of Directors seats
8. Oath of office of newly elected CASB Board of Directors
9. Presentation and action on submitted business items
10. Adjournment of Business Meeting

# ***ELECTION PROCEDURES***

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## **CHSAA Legislative Council**

1. Candidates for an uncontested seat shall be elected by acclamation and will be introduced.
2. Candidates for contested seats shall be invited to make a two-minute statement expressing their interest in serving as a school board representative on the CHSAA Legislative Council.
3. Delegates shall cast their votes electronically for each of the open representative seats.
4. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast for each contested open seat shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, a runoff election shall be conducted between those candidates receiving the highest number of votes for that seat.
5. In the event the representative seat is not filled by the election, the CASB Board of Directors will appoint an eligible representative in accordance with Board policy.

## **CASB Board of Directors**

1. Candidates for an uncontested seat shall be elected by acclamation and will be introduced.
2. Candidates for contested seats shall be invited to make a two-minute statement expressing their interest in serving on the CASB Board of Directors.
3. At the time designated by the current CASB board president, delegates shall cast their votes electronically, for each of the open seats.
4. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast for each contested open seat shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, a runoff election shall be conducted between those candidates receiving the highest number of votes for that seat.
5. In the event there is no candidate for a vacant seat, the CASB Board of Directors will appoint an eligible director in accordance with Board policy.

# ***STANDING RULES***

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1. Except as modified below, the Annual Delegate Assembly Meeting shall operate by the rules prescribed in the current version of Robert's Rules of Order and the CASB Bylaws<sup>1</sup>.

## **Delegates**

2. Delegates to the Delegate Assembly must have been registered and approved by November 8, 2024, in accordance with Board policy, BJ, "Delegate Assembly."
3. Delegates who appear in person may participate in debate, amendments, and other business of the Delegate Assembly. Delegates opting to be online shall participate in all votes. No proxies shall be permitted.
4. Delegates will address the Chair or the Body, rather than an individual delegate.

## **Voting**

5. All voting shall be by electronic vote, by voice vote, or by paper ballot, if necessary.
  - a. Motions to Call the Question or Close Debate will be by voice vote.
6. Representatives of twenty (20) percent of Active Members shall constitute a quorum. Actions shall be taken by majority vote of the member boards represented and voting, except as otherwise noted.

## **Amendments to the Bylaws**

7. Amendments to the bylaws shall be in writing and presented to the CASB President or designee prior to discussion of the amendment in the Delegate Assembly. (See form on opposite page.)
8. Amendments to the bylaws will be considered in the following manner at the December 2024 Delegate Assembly Business meeting:
  - a. Debate, questions, and proposed amendments may be considered.
  - b. Amendments proposed from the floor will be heard if they reach a 2/3 majority vote to be considered.
9. Amendments to the bylaws require a two-thirds majority vote of the member boards represented and voting.

10. Changes to the bylaws will take effect immediately, unless otherwise specified by the Delegate Assembly.

### **Resolutions and Proposed Changes to the CASB Legislative Agenda**

11. Any Resolution not published and distributed in accordance with CASB policy and Bylaws shall be considered a resolution from the floor. To present a Resolution from the floor, a delegate will submit the proposed resolution in writing to the CASB president or designee prior to consideration. When recognized, the delegate will make a motion that the Resolution be considered. If the motion is seconded, the delegate offering the floor Resolution will be allowed three minutes to speak to the motion. The motion to consider a Resolution from the floor requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board delegates represented and voting. If the motion to consider passes, the floor Resolution will then be considered on its merits in the same manner as any other Resolution.

12. Legislative Resolutions adopted by the Delegate Assembly will be reported as part of the official actions of the Delegate Assembly.

13. Proposed changes to the CASB Legislative Agenda (adopted at the Delegate Assembly on October 19, 2024) will follow the same process and requirements.

### **Debate**

14. In speaking to a motion, a delegate will be limited to three minutes. A delegate shall identify themselves before speaking on an issue.

15. A delegate who has spoken once on a question will not be recognized again for the same question until others who wish to speak have spoken. At that time, the delegate will be allowed two minutes for rebuttal.

### **Items of Business**

16. Items of Business which affect the work of the Association or the Delegate Assembly shall be heard immediately after the election of CASB Directors by the Delegate Assembly.

17. Items of Business must include an estimate of cost.

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i. In accordance with CASB Bylaws (December 7, 2023), Article VII, Section 3d: “The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt organizational guidelines and/or rules of procedure for the conduct of business at the delegate assembly.”



# ***ABOUT CHSSA AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL***

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*CHSAA mission statement: The mission of the CHSAA is to serve its membership through the advancement of, and the student's participation in, interscholastic activities, which are an integral component and a complement to the educational goals of its member schools.*

CHSAA's Legislative Council is comprised of representatives from local leagues across the state. Each league is entitled to a minimum of one representative. Each league with 10 to 19 schools is entitled to an additional representative. Each league with a total student enrollment of at least 10,000 is entitled to a total of three representatives. Each league with 20 or more schools is entitled to a total of four representatives. Individual leagues elect these representatives to the Legislative Council.

The Colorado Association of School Boards elects five representatives to the council, which are elected from specified regions in the state. School board representatives also can serve as members of CHSAA's sports, administrative and activities advisory committees. The CHSAA election process requires each candidate to provide a candidate affidavit and a statement of 150 words or less about their local board service and/or why they want to serve on the CHSAA Legislative Council.

- **Representative A (CASB Regions 1 & 4) three-year term, ending Dec. 2027**

- ◊ Robin Meireis

- **Representative E (CASB Regions 9, 11 & 12) three-year term, ending Dec. 2027**

- ◊ None



# *CHSAA CANDIDATE*

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## Representative A

**Robin Meireis, Weld County District RE-7**

### **Representative Statement**

Hello, my name is Robin Meireis. I am currently serving as Vice President of the Platte Valley School Board in Kersey. I have served on the board since March of 2018. I believe school athletics are important to teach teamwork, perseverance and grit. It is important for student athletes to learn how to balance their time between academics and their commitment to sports. I participated in athletics and earned several team championships during my high school years at Platte Valley. Both my son and daughter participated in athletics. My daughter was also part of championship teams during her high school years at Platte Valley High School. I feel it is important to contribute and lend my time to help advance CHSAA for the next generation of student athletes. I am a Colorado native, received my bachelor's degree with highest honors and I am a 3rd generation business owner.

# *CHSAA CANDIDATE*

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## Representative E

**None**

# ***ABOUT CASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

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CASB's Board of Directors provides a critical link between the state organization and the CASB membership. Directors dedicate their time and wisdom to the Association to make the best decisions on behalf of the CASB membership.

Below is an abbreviated list of CASB Board duties:

## **Provide a link to membership**

- Serve as liaisons between CASB and school boards in each region.
- Meet and communicate with local boards about relevant issues, apprising the CASB staff and Board of concerns and local boards' needs.
- Connect with members at CASB conferences and the annual Convention.

## **Govern**

- Attend and prepare for all Board meetings.
- Participate in discussions about issues while respecting other points of view.
- Make decisions in the best interest of CASB as an organization.
- Support the Board's decisions.
- Evaluate and follow up on Board meeting outcomes; Monitor the implementation of Board actions in the short and long term; Communicate concerns with the Board President, Executive Director or Board of Directors as appropriate
- Participate effectively in committees on behalf of CASB.

## **Advocate**

- Serve as vigorous advocates for CASB and local boards, locally and at state and regional levels, promoting CASB's and local boards' best interests, and supporting the CASB mission.
- Serve as CASB ambassadors, knowledgeable about CASB policies, goals, plans, and services.

# *REQUIREMENTS FOR CASB BOARD CANDIDATES*

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The CASB Board of Directors election process requires each candidate to provide:

1. A letter of intent
2. Two letters of recommendation
3. Answers to the following two questions prepared by the CASB Board Leadership Committee:
  - a. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?*
  - b. Given CASB's priorities of leadership, advocacy, fiscal solutions, and local governance, choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member.*

Candidates' letters of intent and answers to the above questions are included in the following pages.

# *CANDIDATES FOR THE CASB BOARD*

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Following are the nominees for the CASB Board of Directors:

**REGION 1 — One 3-year term**

- Nancy Hopper, Morgan County RE-3, Incumbent

**REGION 3 — One 3-year term**

- Dee Leyba, East Otero School District R-1, Incumbent

**REGION 4 — One 2-year term**

- Jeff Oatman, Eaton School District, Incumbent
- Kyle Bentley, Weld County 6
- Debra Gustafson, Weld County RE-3J

**REGION 5 — One 2-year term**

- Sally Daigle, Sheridan School District, Incumbent

**REGION 5 — One 3-year term**

- Lindley McCrary, Littleton Public Schools, Incumbent

**REGION 6 — One 3-year term**

- Tiffiney Upchurch, Lewis-Palmer #38, Incumbent

**REGION 7 — One 3-year term**

- Leah Helme, Steamboat Springs RE-2

**REGION 11 — One 1-year term**

- Sarah Fishing, Montrose County RE-1J, Incumbent

**REGION 13 — One 1-year term**

- None

**REGION 13 — One 3-year term**

- Dr. Anne Keke, Aurora Public Schools, Incumbent

# *REGION 1*

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## One 3-year term

### **Nancy Hopper, Morgan County RE-3 - Incumbent**

#### Letter of Intent

My name is Nancy Hopper, and I am seeking reelection to the CASB Board of Directors representing Northeast Colorado, Region 1. I was recently reelected to a second term on my local school board in Fort Morgan where I currently serve as president.

I wish to continue to serve as a Director of CASB, having been originally elected for the position in December of 2021. Most recently in January, I was elected vice president of CASB. In as much, I seek to continue my work on promoting CASB's Leadership and Advocacy work across the state representing all 179 school districts. I have served on LRC, By-Laws Task Force, Executive Director Evaluation and Research Committee, Policy Review, Voting Delegate, Executive Committee, Dues Task Force, Credentials Committee, and other areas when asked to serve or lead.

I believe I am uniquely qualified for the position not only from my professional background in education, but as a state leader desiring to serve students from the 64 counties in Colorado on their educational journey and beyond. I recognize the challenges we face in public education and wish to be a part of finding positive solutions. I understand and enjoy policy making, fiscal oversight, local governance and strategic planning. Over my professional career in education, I have lobbied and testified at the capitol on issues to support students and districts. I don't backdown from tough conversations and difficult decisions. And lastly, I represent rural America and our unique yet common issues in educational opportunities and challenges

The CASB Leadership Team and Board has done phenomenal work over the last couple of years. I desire to continue to be a part of that endeavor to strengthen our recognition as Colorado's premier voice in education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy M. Hopper

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. CASB's role as a membership organization is to provide support for locally elected school board members in Leadership, Advocacy, Fiscal Solutions, and Governance. To achieve these objectives, the Colorado Association of School Boards directors require strong leaders who understand the mission of the organization to which they are elected to represent and serve.

At Region 1 CASB Director, as well as a team member of the entire CASB Board, I would continue to demonstrate the roles and responsibilities of for fiscal oversight, strategic planning, policy development and revision, political and legislative advocacy at the Capitol, and avenues to enhance educational opportunities for students and districts across the state of Colorado. Having a unified and collective voice lends power to our organization and to the continued goals we wish to accomplish.

CASB Directors look for ways to support student opportunities and achievement, provide guidance to local school boards and advocate statewide.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. Leadership. I have a 30-year career as an educator in Colorado, serving a variety of roles from classroom teacher to district administration. Upon retiring, I ran for school board in Fort Morgan and am serving my second term and currently as local president.

Leaders build capacity and I am proud of the work I have accomplished both at local and state levels in Colorado. In 2024, I was elected CASB Vice President. I serve currently on numerous committees for CASB: Onboarding, Executive, Executive Director Evaluation and Research, By-Laws, Policy, Finance to name a few. I wish to continue this leadership and advocacy for students and school boards.

“The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them.” John C. Maxwell

“Hopper Happening!”



Greg Wagers  
PO Box 945  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
970-380-2132

Colorado Association of School Boards  
2253 S. Oneida St. #300  
Denver, CO 80224

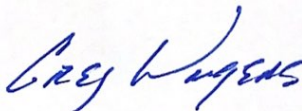
To Whom It May Concern:

As a retired school superintendent of the Fort Morgan School District, I recognize the importance of a skilled, effective school board. It is my honor to provide this letter of reference for Nancy Hopper, candidate for the CASB Board of Directors from Region 1. Nancy's dedication to public education has been demonstrated throughout her many years of work as a teacher, staff development leader, elementary principal, central office administrator, and now as a member of the Re-3 School Board.

Nancy has approached each challenge as a consummate professional and educational advocate, always putting the best interests of children first. The broad scope of experience she gained as an educator has served her well as a school board member. She understands the issues facing public education in Colorado and specifically in rural areas of the state. She served on policy review committees and was instrumental in developing and implementing teacher evaluation systems. She has worked on strategic planning initiatives and developed budgets at both the building and district levels. She has worked with state and federally funded grant programs including programs providing services to ESL and Gifted and Talented students.

Given the breadth of experience Ms. Hopper brings, coupled with her dedication and passion for public education, I feel Nancy will be a positive and constructive asset as a Director on the CASB Board. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Greg Wagers  
Re-3 School Superintendent, Retired

Kathleen J. Gebhardt  
1900 Stony Hill Road  
Boulder, CO 80305  
303-588-8804  
[kathleengebhardt@icloud.com](mailto:kathleengebhardt@icloud.com)

Letter of Support for Nancy Hopper

Oct. 21, 2024

Dear President McCrary,

I am writing to strongly and enthusiastically support Nancy Hopper's nomination to the CASB Board of Directors. Nancy is exceedingly well qualified and will be an asset not only to the board but to CASB as an organization. In addition to her qualifications, Nancy is kind, considerate, and respectful. In these days where education issues are part of the culture wars, Nancy is a good listener and will work hard to find consensus.

I have known Nancy for 3 years. I first met her when she came on the CASB board in 2021. Her dedication to public education is admirable and is evidenced through her lifelong work as an educator. Nancy is dedicated to public service, both at her local community and now at the state level. She has lived in rural Colorado all of her adult life and has a deep understanding of the needs of rural students and districts.

I served with Nancy on several CASB committees so have seen the high quality of her work. I could always count on her work to be outstanding, well researched, and timely. Some of the work she has completed while on the CASB board includes:

- Finance Committee
- Bylaws Task Force
- Accountability Reform Committee
- LRC
- Policy review
- Executive Committee
- CHSSA liaison to CASB board
- 

She has also stepped up to be part of the CASB Foundation, helping to ensure longevity and additional opportunities for our organization.

She is a lifelong educator, having worked as a teacher, director of Head Start, literacy coach, and principal. Nancy also served as President of her local teacher's union. Nancy's background includes a BA in elementary education and Master's degree in gifted education.

Nancy is a strong leader in her local community, having served on many organizations throughout her time in Fort Morgan. Currently, she is President of the Fort Morgan School Board.

CASB will be stronger with Nancy on its board and will be fortunate to have such a strong leader with a deep understanding of public education. Please vote for Nancy for the CASB Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy", written in a cursive style.

Kathy Gebhardt

Past President of CASB and former CASB board member

# *REGION 3*

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## One 3-year term

### **Dee Leyba, East Otero School District R-1 - Incumbent**

I am writing to express my interest in continuing to serve as the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Region 3 Director. I have served on the East Otero School District (EOSD) Board of Education since my appointment in 2016 and election in 2017. I am passionate about public education and believe that CASB can be instrumental in guiding local school board directors in their professional and personal development to govern in an ethically sound, inclusive, and equitable manner.

In my time as a board director for EOSD, I have held the offices of Treasurer, Vice President, and President. I have also been our voting delegate, as well as served on the Legislative Resolutions Committee. I have also had the privilege to serve on the Back-to-School Task Force, representing CASB and rural school districts; the Educator Pay Raise Task Force, representing rural school districts; and as a member of the CASB Bylaws Task Force.

Additionally, I have served as a parent representative and Vice Chair for the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education; Co-Chair for our District Advisory Council; Chair of the Bent, Otero, Crowley Early Childhood Council; and Chair of our local Library Advisory Council. I currently work for our local public health agency, Otero County Health Department, which serves both Otero and Crowley counties. My position is Program Director for the Communities That Care program, which addresses problem youth behaviors through community organization and primary prevention. There is a considerable amount of overlap between the work I do in public health and as a school board director. My lived experience as a woman of color in a rural district gives me a unique view on how to strengthen our boards of education. Because of this, I can view and process important issues through multiple lenses, which contributes to me being a well-qualified candidate to serve on the CASB Board.

Thank you for your consideration in allowing me the opportunity to learn as much as possible at this level of engagement to help me develop into a stronger mentor for future board directors willing to serve.

With appreciation and respect,

Dee Leyba, President

East Otero School District R-1 BOE



**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. Having a strong commitment to public education and willingness to be adaptable through life-long learning combined with being a skilled facilitator and strong communicator and collaborator, I'm confident I would be an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors. There are several pathways to building strong relationships with our member school districts to have a more collective impact in our advocacy for all students to have access to a high-quality education, necessary social support services, and uplifting our educators and the essential role they play in shaping young lives and building our communities.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. It is difficult to choose one, without considering the others – however, being from a rural school district, local governance is always the default. If appointed as the Region 3 CASB director, I would bring with me the importance of 'Do No Harm.' It is necessary for any governing body to make a strong effort in checking we are not creating or promoting any procedure, policy, practice, or budget decisions that will hinder or exacerbate anyone's ability to access any social determinant of health such as education.

October 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend Dee Leyba of East Otero School District/La Junta for the position of CASB Region 3 representative.

I am Sandi Schuessler a bilingual school nurse with Denver Public Schools and former School Board President with Clear Creek School District and I first met Dee in the fall of 2019 at the CASB Delegate conference.

Dee has always impressed me with her organizational skills, depth of understanding of the legislative process, and dedication to leadership as a volunteer in her community.

Dee uniquely stands out for this position as a person who has dedicated her time and her passion to public education. Dee has been on her school board for 8 years and President of the La Junta school board for 4 years. And Dee works in public health in primary prevention as a Communities That Care (CTC) program Director, has raised 4 children through the school system and is an active parent attending her youngest son's basketball and football games, and serving on her local School and District Accountability Committees in a parent capacity.

Dee has impressed me with her reflective style of leadership and availability as a mentor. Dee and I have had multiple conversations comparing and contrasting our experience around rural funding for schools, teacher retention, the need for capital improvement in our schools, how to organize school operations, and the improvement of classroom instruction. Dee has also shared her journey on how La Junta schools maintained a healthy, safe, and orderly environment for both students and staff throughout the pandemic. Truly this is just the tip of the iceberg in the many conversations Dee and I have had around public education as these are just the topics we tend to discuss most often.

It's not just Dee's passion and success in her time as a professional in public education but her ability to help me be reflective in my own path and how she encourages me to apply to join the Legislative Resolutions Committee with CASB.

Dee has shared recordings of her school board meetings and advocacy and city council meetings over the years which are a demonstration of her excellent oral and written communication skills and her interpersonal skills.

Dee is compassionate, approachable, resourceful, collaborative and determined in both her professional and personal life and would be an asset as the CASB Region 3 representative. If you need more information please do not hesitate to contact me on my personal cell phone at 720-412-2993; as a recommendation letter may only provide a snapshot of Dee's talents and abilities and I would be happy to further elaborate.

Sincerely,

Sandi Schuessler  
Bilingual School Nurse  
Denver Public Schools

Aaron Olivieri  
Operational Readiness Review Coordinator – State of Colorado  
aaron.olivieri@state.co.us  
720-471-3591

28 October 2024

Colorado Association of School Boards

Dear CASB Representative,

I am writing this letter to highly recommend Dee Leyba, who I have had the privilege of working with for several years. Dee is a truly outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to our community and educational institutions.

Dee serves as the President of the East Otero School Board, where her leadership and dedication have been instrumental in driving positive change and improvements in our local education system. Her commitment to ensuring that our schools provide the best possible opportunities for our youth is unwavering.

In addition to her role on the school board, Dee is the Director of Arkansas Valley Communities that Care. Through her leadership in this organization, she has been a driving force in addressing critical issues within our community, particularly those related to the well-being and development of our youth. Her ability to collaborate with various stakeholders and her passion for making a difference are truly commendable.

What sets Dee apart is her relentless focus on equipping our youth with real-world skills as they graduate high school. She understands the importance of not only academic education but also the practical skills and values that will prepare students for the challenges of the future. Dee's dedication to this cause is evident in the numerous programs and initiatives she has championed.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend Dee Leyba for any endeavor she chooses to pursue. Her passion, leadership, and commitment to improving our community and empowering our youth make her an exceptional candidate. I am confident that she will continue to excel and make a lasting impact wherever she goes.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to provide additional insights into Dee's remarkable qualities and achievements.

Sincerely,

Aaron Olivieri



# *REGION 4*

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## One 2-year term

### **Jeff Oatman, Eaton School District - Incumbent**

CASB Membership,

My name is Jeff Oatman and I am seeking election to the vacant Board seat for Region 4.

After being appointed to the unoccupied seat last year, I have had the opportunity to contribute to the Board's work by advocating for the rural districts, advocating for all students at all levels of their education and working alongside CASB staff to bring forth recommendations to the full Board to continue to increase the fiscal health of our Association.

In advocating for both rural districts and all students, it has always been my policy to bring up the opposing side of every issue so that a full debate can be had. This is to ensure that all board members have a full picture of the issues being decided and have an understanding, to the best of our abilities, the consequences of our actions. Although CASB doesn't hold responsibility in making actionable decisions, we do have the ability to influence policy and speak for all Colorado school districts and all students, and that is a responsibility that I do not take lightly.

Additionally, as a member of the Finance committee, I have led the restructuring of our finances to generate more revenue, and we are currently in the process of simplifying our investment portfolio to increase profits with an eye on eventually reducing the burden of funding on the CASB membership.

I am proud of the work we have done in working through the divisions recently endured by our association and believe the only way public education gets what we are due, is by having a unified state organization where every district feels represented. This, along with my work on the finance committee, is work I would like to continue for the next 2 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. In my mind, CASB's role as an organization is mainly as an advocacy organization. Primarily, this advocacy happens with legislators and state regulators to ensure the members needs and expertise are heard. Our elected officials, for the most part, are not experts in education, so it is the role of CASB to represent the experts, our professional educators, through their elected boards, to advocate on their behalf, especially in the areas of funding and regulation. If CASB fails in this arena, our future is dictated by the whims of the legislature and not directed in the best interests of our customers, the students. CASB's secondary role is in providing information about changing regulation, standards, etc. to its members in the form of policy updates. Although it is the member's responsibility to adhere to regulation and standard, having a central place of information dispersal is simply more efficient for all.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. As you are aware, the State of Colorado's budget is less than ideal. While the legislature is required to pass a balanced budget, the governor's office continues to find new ways to decrease state revenue from taxes, which while good for the individual taxpayer, is a recipe for disaster for the state. Throw into the mix a new school funding formula with unknown consequences and it is the worst possible scenario for school finance. As we all know, school funding determines opportunity, and all of Colorado's students deserve the same opportunity regardless of locale. Therefore, as a board member, I would focus on the Fiscal Solutions priority with the intent to ensure that there is equity in revenues for all districts in a state.

Garry Albright  
20 Dos Rios  
Greeley, CO 80634

TO: Colorado Association of School Boards

2253 S. Oneida St. Suite 300

Denver, CO 80224

Re: Recommendation of Jeff Oatman for CASB Board Seat

CASB Leadership-

It is my honor to recommend Jeff Oatman for a seat on the CASB Board.

When I was asked to do so, my first thought was that Jeff is good at any leadership efforts he tries, but I also had questions around why this role, and more specifically, what would set him apart from other candidates that you might consider. To answer that question, I took a look at your priorities that you stated in 2021. I am more convinced now that Jeff would fill this seat quite admirably for CASB.

I've known Jeff, both professionally and personally, for over ten years now, and as I look at your four priorities, I see him fitting this role.

1. Leadership- I've witnessed Jeff ability to lead in the years that we worked together. Peers and managers leaned on him and his servant leadership, and we always counted on him doing what was right.
2. Advocacy- Jeff grew up and attended school in a place that is barely noticeable by a sign directing you off of I-25 in southern Colorado. And he's now raising a family in a growing and thriving community in northern Colorado. So in terms of advocacy, Jeff is well-versed in the challenges that Colorado schools face on both ends of the needs-spectrum. He will have a great understanding of how solutions impact students all across the state.
3. Fiscal solutions- I've witnessed first-hand how Jeff manages his fiscal responsibilities- in his home, his career, and as part of the Eaton school board. He's willing to spend money on the right projects, but wants a real and viable plan for how it is going to be financed, and then makes sure there is discipline around adhering to that plan.
4. Local governance- Jeff has a strong sense of pride in his local community, and a strong belief in his responsibility to contribute to it through his service on the Eaton school board. He will be really strong in these efforts.

You will be well-served to have Jeff as an active leader with CASB. Actually, we all will. The children of Colorado will be better with leaders like Jeff that are passionate about their success.

Thank you for the consideration,

Garry Albright

Brad Sharp  
1635 Plains Drive  
Eaton, CO 80615  
[bsharp@eaton.k12.co.us](mailto:bsharp@eaton.k12.co.us)  
December 22, 2023

Colorado Association of School Boards  
2253 S. Oneida St., Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80224

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to recommend Mr. Jeff Oatman for the Region 4 vacancy on the CASB Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of serving alongside Jeff on the Eaton School District RE-2 Board for the past two years, during which time he has demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and a profound commitment to the well-being of our educational community.

During his tenure on the board, Jeff has served as the CASB Legislative representative for our district, and his impact has been truly commendable. His thorough understanding of legislative matters and tireless efforts in advocating to benefit our students and constituents have significantly contributed to the positive trajectory of our school district.

One of Jeff's outstanding qualities is his attentiveness to the needs of our students. Whether participating in board meetings, engaging with parents, or collaborating with educators, Jeff consistently places the best interests of our students at the forefront of his decision-making. His advocacy extends beyond the boardroom, reflecting a genuine concern for the academic success and overall development of each student in our district.

In addition to his advocacy and commitment, Jeff has proven himself to be a dependable and trustworthy colleague. His dedication to fulfilling his responsibilities, and actively participating in board initiatives has been instrumental in the smooth functioning of our board.

In conclusion, I endorse Jeff Oatman for the Region 4 vacancy on the CASB Board of Directors. His passion for education, legislative acumen, and unwavering commitment to our school district make him an ideal candidate to contribute to the broader goals of CASB. I am confident that Jeff will bring the same level of dedication and excellence to the CASB Board that he has consistently demonstrated in our local community.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or clarification regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Brad Sharp  
Eaton School Board

# *REGION 4*

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## One 2-year term

### **Kyle Bentley, Weld County 6**

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to notify you of my desire and intent to run for the CASB Board of Directors via Region 4.

I would like to be more involved and increase my impact on education at the state level as I have found great value in my local board director role. I offer a unique point of view to the board with my background in the trades as a business owner/operator.

I am beginning the fourth year of my first term on my local school board and have enjoyed contributing to my community as well as learning about the needs, challenges, and joys of public education. I believe I will be able to apply what I have learned from my fellow board members and our wonderful superintendent to the CASB board. Productively and efficiently engaging with fellow board members while allowing the superintendent to effectively do their job is a value and expectation that I will bring to the CASB board.

As a single father of two boys who are enrolled in public schools, a business owner who understands the post-high school needs of our community as well as anyone, and a taxpayer – I believe I bring a distinct and all-encompassing perspective to the table. During my service on the board of education, I have made the effort to listen to and engage with students, parents, and staff to do what is best for the students and community. I am open-minded, based in common sense, and dedicated to working as hard as required to ensure I am a successful and contributing CASB director.

I hope that you will accept this letter and nomination for the position.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kyle Bentley

2687 58th Ave

Greeley, CO 80634

970.652.8772

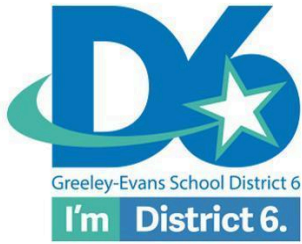
Kyle@bentleyweldinginc.com

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. CASB's role as a membership organization means to me that it serves its members for the greater good of all. Working as one large entity to help individual members prosper and reach their goals. I think I would be an effective contributor through a lot of my talents including personability, common sense, hard work, experience and intelligence. I would bring a rural background mixed with a large districts perspective while adding in a trades and business background to really round out a full list of desirable attributes as a director.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. I think one of the priorities that I would feel most comfortable jumping right in on is the Fiscal solutions. As a business owner for over a decade, employing hundreds of people during that time, I know the value of operating with fiscal responsibility. Watching government in general, spending irresponsibly has always made me feel uneasy and I would love the opportunity to be part of the solution instead of sitting back and complaining about the problems.



24 October 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Greeley-Evans School District 6 Board of Education Director Kyle Bentley for a position on CASB Board of Directors.

In my 7 year tenure on the Greeley-Evans School District 6 Board of Education, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving with some truly exceptional board members, including a current State Board of Education Representative, a former CASB Legislative Resolutions Chair, and 2 McGuffey Award winners. Of the 14 board members with which I have served, Kyle Bentley is without question one of the finest.

As a successful entrepreneur and business owner, Kyle brings a unique perspective to our board. His intimate understanding of business structures, operations, management and finance allows him to provide extraordinary wisdom and accountability with respect to organizational effectiveness. As a local employer, he is also able to provide a realistic understanding of what businesses truly require of our graduates and what skills are most needed in the workforce. This experience has helped grow and refine our district's vision for career and technical education, Ptech programs, and career internships.

What differentiates Kyle as a truly exceptional leader is his judgment. Kyle listens carefully, identifies underlying issues quickly and always speaks directly to the heart of the matter. Additionally, his judgments are rarely predetermined. He has the willingness to be convinced and the humility to change his opinion when he believes a change is warranted. His unique blend of judgment, compassion, and vision has earned Kyle the respect and trust of fellow board members, district administrators and our community.

I strongly recommend Kyle Bentley for this important position, and I am confident his ability to listen, collaborate, and make informed decisions will benefit CASB in much the same way it has benefited District 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Mathews'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael Mathews  
Board of Education, President





Dear CASB Selection Committee:

As the Mayor of Greeley for the past seven years, I have known Kyle Bentley both as a Greeley business owner and as a fellow elected official in his current role as Director for the Greeley-Evans School District 6 Board of Education.

As a successful business owner, Kyle is committed to the community. Through his business, he has engaged in public service by donating products from his welding business to non-profit organizations and fundraising efforts. He has engaged in the internship program through District 6, hiring high school rising seniors as interns in both the manufacturing and business side of Bentley Welding, giving these young people invaluable experiences in a real-world setting. He is committed to the success of Greeley.

As a public servant, Kyle has taken the time to attend many events, including school visits, to enhance his understanding of the school district he serves. He takes his role as a Board member very seriously, studying issues before the board, asking questions and voicing his opinions on policy matters. Kyle values the role of public education in the community. He regularly attends community events in his capacity as a Board member and represents the District with dignity and knowledge.

Kyle is intelligent, thoughtful, committed and always willing to learn. He is a person who stands by his values and is always willing to listen to others. I believe he would make an excellent member of the Colorado Association of School Boards Board of Directors. He has my highest recommendation.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information. Thank you for your consideration and your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Gates".

John Gates, Mayor  
City of Greeley

[John.Gates@greeleygov.com](mailto:John.Gates@greeleygov.com)

# *REGION 4*

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## One 2-year term

### **Debra Gustafson, Weld County RE-3J**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am announcing my intent to run for the open Region 4 CASB board seat.

I want to be a CASB director so I can help carry on the work that drives this organization forward. I see the value in what CASB has to offer all boards and am willing to put my time and experience into the organization. I want to see CASB succeed in its mission to be an educational and informative organization for its membership. CASB is an organization representing a very diverse membership that encompasses the entire state. CASB allows for shared ideas and finding ways to support all those in this membership with public education and its issues. I want to be available to other members of Colorado school boards sharing the work and information the CASB board works on throughout the year.

Over the past 45 years, I have served the educational community in a variety of roles. I have worked in K-12 education, served the special needs population, worked on equity and inclusion in schools, instructed for U.C.D., and represented Colorado in Washington, D.C. advocating for kids across our state.

I have served on my board for over four terms and learned a lot through leadership, networking, and CASB's informative sessions at conferences and annual conventions. I have also been a CASB director and helped in the policy review and revisions that gives direction to the CASB board and guidance for our organization. I am willing to do the hard work to make our organization better and stronger. I have the time and willingness to do this job, follow our vision, goals, and priorities.

I want to represent all board members across the state and be a strong voice for you.

Debra Gustafson

ALt. Secretary/Treasurer

Weld RE3j School District

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. I am excited to say that I worked with other CASB directors on what it means to be a membership organization for Colorado school boards. CASB has an obligation to support and provide services to its members. I believe that it is our responsibility to educate and train our members. Onboarding sessions have been put in place for new members to help them understand their role on their local boards. CASB provides leadership development, governance training, advocacy, policy services and reviews, legal information, and so much more. I am a big advocate for education and have been vested in the FRN and LRC. I will work hard to bring positive changes needed to advance this organization through continued work on our vision, mission, and goals. I believe in communication, accountability, and the ability to agree and disagree when debating issues brought before this board.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. I believe my job is to look at and bring forth issues surrounding public education, students wellbeing, safety, and other concerns that impact our schools. Our LRC and FRN groups also advocate for students in Colorado. I have been part of the FRN advocacy group representing students and issues impacting their education in both Washington, D.C. and at our own state capital. At our Fall and Winter Conferences, we get to discuss important issues and bring these ideas and issues to the board for further discussion. Our lobbyist also keeps us informed as to what potential bills and resolutions will be presented during the legislative session and how we can support, reject or take a neutral stance on each. Our organization is highly respected. Our directors reach out and invite our legislators to have conversations about what is and isn't working for public education. I would love to continue to work advocating for our organization through these groups and the work we do.

Greg Piotraschke  
13564 Krameria Ct.  
Thornton, CO, 80602

October 18, 2024

To CASB President - Lindley McCray and the CASB Board of Directors,

I am writing to you today to recommend Deb Gustafson for CASB Region 4, Board of Directors. I have served as a school board member for School District 27J from 2013-2023 as a CASB Delegate, CASB committee member, the Vice-President and President of my school board. During that time, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with Deb in various capacities, not only as fellow educators, and board members but also in the regional meetings, conventions, CASB committees and legislative work at the state and federal levels. Deb has dedicated herself to the mission of educating all students in Colorado throughout the varied aspects of her life. She worked for 20 years as a teacher in the very district I served. She was always an example for others in her work ethic and passion for her students. Deb has also served as a Weld RE-3j School board member and member of CASB for the past 18 years. During this time, she has held various positions on her local board. I was privileged to collaborate with her on the school board side through the FRN committee we served on together. It was a pleasure to collaborate with her in communicating the successes and needs of our neighboring districts to the various representatives of government from the under the golden dome to the offices in D.C. We were able to discuss the various complexities and the effects that our officials' decisions made at the local level and became a valued resource for information they or their staff needed. Deb is a person that can see things from multiple angles and can listen to all sides while trying to work for the best outcome available. She understands the small district/rural needs but also understands the growth and problems of the larger/urban districts. Deb is a resolute supporter of what CASB does and strives to represent, and she can bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the CASB Board. These are just a few reasons that I believe Deb Gustafson will be a valuable member of the CASB Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Greg Piotraschke

SD27J Past President '19-23, Vice President '17-19, Board member 2013-2023

October 5, 2024

Lindley McCrary, CASB President  
c/o Tracey DeMeo

CASB Selection Committee.

It is a great pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Deb Gustafson. Deb is seeking to fill a position for Directorship on the Colorado Association of Schools Board, representing Region four.

I have known Deb for many years as we were both educators in the Fort Morgan School District. Although we did not serve in the same building, professionally we served a variety of leadership roles within the district.

I have always found Deb to be diligent and very thoughtful in her duties - her service was always integral to committee successes. She based her deliberations on what was best for students not only directly in her care, but others as well throughout the district.

Deb has excellent verbal skills and is extremely knowledgeable about policies and organizational dynamics.

Her leadership will only make CASB a better organization!

Sincerely,

*Nancy M. Hopper*  
Nancy M Hopper,  
President Fort Morgan School Board  
Vice President, Colorado Association of School Boards

# *REGION 5*

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## One 2-year term

### **Sally Daigle, Sheridan School District - Incumbent**

Esteemed Board President and Board Members,

Please accept this as my letter of intent to serve on the CASB Board of Directors representing Region 5.

I feel I have a “few years” of experience, as a School Board Director of Sheridan School District since 2009, I have learned a “few things” about school district operations. Seriously, I do understand the importance of the role of a Board Director, guiding the direction of the district, while encompassing the vision of the Community and the needs of the students. I also possess a high level of integrity, I am honest, ethical, and accountable for my actions and decisions. I have served Sheridan School District as their CASB Delegate for my entire tenure as a Board Director. My desire to improve and advance School Governance at a larger scope than my own District led me to volunteer as CASB Delegate over 10 years ago, and to sit on the CASB Executive Board of Directors for the last year. I relate well with other CASB members across the state of Colorado and have made some very dear friends in the process.

As an enthusiastic supporter of CASB I hope to serve on the CASB Board to further the work we have started. Work this year has been the creation of committees to update the By-laws and a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of CASB’s professional development opportunities and how small and rural Districts in Colorado access and utilize them, and a deep dive into the finances and fee structure in order to maintain the high quality of CASB’s services.

I hope to continue to be a strong representative and advocate of CASB to those small and rural districts across the state.

In conclusion, I ask that you consider my years of experience as a School Board Director, CASB Delegate and CASB Executive Board Director and my desire to serve as a CASB advocate for region 5’s Board Director seat.

Respectfully,

Sally Daigle

Sheridan School District

Vice-President

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. CASB is a nonprofit member organization created to support school district board members throughout the state of Colorado. All districts in Colorado can become members but membership is not required or mandatory. School districts have the option to decline membership. 178 districts currently participate and have access to the policy and legal services, professional development, and legislative advocacy support. Each district is allowed a delegate and an alternate to participate in the Delegate Assembly where through the democratic process policies and positions are determined. Those policies and positions are then taken by the CASB advocacy team to the state and federal levels where the team works to ensure legislation that reflects the CASB membership's priorities.

I support this process as it reflects the vision and priorities of the districts, schools, and communities of the state. Keeping local control as a foundation of democracy that serves the people of Colorado. I understand the importance of the membership as a whole and the role of Board Directors to represent its members. I believe my understanding of this will translate into my contribution to the CASB Board of Directors.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. CASB's priority to advance leadership throughout the membership body has been useful in my tenure as a school board director. I have on several occasions attended leadership sessions, used the CASB web site to gain information and further my knowledge on effective leadership issues. I have used the skills learned through my participation in CASB training at my school board as well as during my term as Mayor Pro-tem of the City of Sheridan. I would enjoy using my knowledge and experience to nurture other board members into becoming effective leaders in their community. I feel my many years of experience through difficult times and good times gives me a unique understanding of the issues that face board members. I hope to be appointed to the CASB Board so that I will have the opportunity to participate in leadership training throughout the CASB membership.

Dear CASB Board,

I am writing this letter to recommend Sally Daigle for the current open CASB board position in region five.

I am recommending Sally not only because of her impressive volunteer leadership experience; which includes serving as a Sheridan School Board since 2009 and being a delegate for CASB since 2010.

I am recommending Sally because I have had the privilege of getting to know her personally over the past twelve years. Sally is not only a remarkably ethical, dedicated, passionate, hardworking person. Sally has such a strong conviction that all students should be treated equitable and allotted every opportunity possible with their education. There is not anyone I could recommend further for this position.

All my best,

Kelly Perez

Littleton Board Member (2013-2021)  
CASB Board (2019-2021)



January 5, 2024

Dear CASB President McCrary and the CASB Executive Committee,

Please accept this letter as a recommendation for Sally Daigle for the open Region 5 seat on the CASB Board of Directors.

I first met Sally a few years ago at a Region 5 meeting. I was struck by Sally's passion and commitment, not only to the Sheridan School Board, but to her community at large. When introducing ourselves at the meeting, Sally spoke to her many roles within her community – Mayor Pro Tem as an example – and I was immediately intrigued and inspired by her level of engagement.

I have since been to many meetings with Sally. She provides valuable input when necessary. She is thoughtful and has an open mind.

I believe Sally's voice is exactly what the CASB Board needs to further the goal of diverse voices and perspectives and better representation from the school districts we serve.

It is without reservation that I recommend Sally Daigle to fill the Region 5 seat on the CASB Board. She would be a welcome and important addition to the team.

Best,



Stacey Zis

Former CASB Board Member (2020-2023)

Former BVSD School Board Member (2019-2023)

# *REGION 5*

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## One 3-year term

### **Lindley McCrary, Littleton Public Schools - Incumbent**

Dear CASB Members,

My name is Lindley McCrary and I am seeking re-election to the CASB Board of Directors, representing Region 5. I am currently in my 5th year serving on the Board of Education for Littleton Public Schools, and am completing my third year serving on the CASB BoD.

In my time on the CASB BoD, I have seen tremendous growth, and it has been an honor to be a part of it all along. From co-chairing the Bylaws Task Force to serving as President-Elect and this year as President, I have been inspired by the dedication of my colleagues from all over this state. I have proven that I am willing to have the challenging conversations that sometimes arise in this work, and that I will listen to all viewpoints. If re-elected to serve another term on the CASB BoD, I am committed to continuing that effort wholeheartedly.

As CASB President, I have engaged in conversations with legislators and education partners, and am actively working to find more ways to empower all of our members to advocate on behalf of their own districts and regions, as well as on behalf of public education in Colorado. I would be honored to have your support in electing me to serve a second term on the CASB Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

*Lindley McCrary*

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. As a member organization, CASB exists to serve and empower its members. A crucial part of this is taking the time to learn about and understand the wide range of representation we have in our member districts, and using that knowledge to help inform decisions that we make as a board. I have learned how much more of an impact we can have on public education in Colorado when we are able to be united in our advocacy. As a member of the CASB Board of Directors, I have deepened my understanding of the issues that many of our member districts face, and have used that knowledge to both inform decisions I make as a board member, and to help shape the conversations I have with legislators and other education partners.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. The priority that aligns the most with me is Advocacy. I came into service on my local board through a path of advocacy for my own child, which grew into advocacy for ALL students in LPS. My dedication to that has only deepened in my service on the CASB Board of Directors. I have had the opportunity to speak with legislators on both the state and federal level, through the lens of service to public education. I also understand the critical importance of the voice of each and every one of our members, especially when it comes to working with legislators. I have worked to build pathways to help facilitate that advocacy, and I am looking forward to continuing that work if re-elected.

Colorado Association of School Boards  
2253 South Oneida Street  
Denver CO 80224



12 September 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Lindley McCrary, a candidate for CASB Board of Directors. Lindley will continue be an great asset to the CASB Board.

Lindley McCrary is a leader on her local Board of Education, shepherding many initiatives for and with her colleagues. Lindley has served well on the CASB Board: as a Region 5 director, and in her several leadership positions. As president in 2023, I was fortunate to be able to rely on Lindley to lead the task force which revised the CASB Byaws, an effort which required diplomacy, transparency, and equanimity. Lindley's leadership was pivotal in bringing the 35 member task force to unanimous agreement AND to having the Delegate Assembly adopt the new bylaws overwhelmingly.

Lindley is looked to for leadership by her peers. She is bright, dedicated, focused and has the skills, talents and discipline necessary to serve CASB and Colorado public education well.

I offer you my highest recommendation of Lindley McCrary. Her talents and dedication will be a continuing light to the CASB Board; our organization, our Board and our Colorado kids deserve no less than Lindley's example of commitment, tenacity, care, and leadership.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information I can provide, or if you'd prefer a signed, hard copy of this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Barbara Clementi'.

Barbara Clementi  
719-543-6621  
CASB Past President 2024

**Carrie Warren-Gully**

7009 South Steel Street  
Centennial, CO. 80122  
720-297-5488

October 7, 2024

Colorado Association of School Boards  
Board of Directors  
2253 S Oneida St #300  
Denver, CO 80224

Dear CASB Board of Directors,

For three years, Lindley McCrary and I worked side by side serving the Littleton Public Schools (LPS) community. Prior to my current position, Lindley and I served together on the LPS School Board and for the past four years working together to advance the work of public education both at the county level and the local community level. It is my absolute pleasure to recommend Lindley McCrary to continue to serve on the CASB Board of Directors.

Lindley brings a rare combination of deep understanding of public education issues with a compassion for people in all walks of life - from the youngest student to the most mature community member. I have enjoyed working with Lindley and been witness to her understanding of education issues and finance at her local level all the way up to the state and national level. She exhibits a combination of being a team player and a leader which is so important for effective and collegial Board work.

Many people believe that the work of education does not cross over into the work of Counties. However, Lindley has shown that she has a deep understanding and appreciation for partnerships with many different types of organizations such as cities, counties and a variety of non-profits. She spearheaded "student voice workshops" so that the Board of Education could learn from and work with the students in Littleton Public Schools. Additionally, she has fostered partnerships that grow opportunities such as the connection between the EPIC campus and the programs available at the Arapahoe/Douglas WORKS workforce center. And most impressively, Lindley understood the importance of re-thinking the use of a school that was going to be closed but is now the East Community Center which opens its doors to many partners in the community to continue to serve families and the whole community in a new way. I know she will serve all of Colorado well with her continued service on the CASB Board.

Sincerely yours,

*Carrie Warren-Gully*

# *REGION 6*

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## One 3-year term

### **Tiffiney Upchurch, Lewis-Palmer #38 - Incumbent**

Dear President McCrary and esteemed fellow Board of Education Members,

I am submitting this letter to express my interest in serving on the CASB board of directors for the three-year term in region 6.

As I enter into succession planning, I seek to engage and motivate new members in our region and across the state to lean into the valuable networking, resources, and services CASB provides its members in leadership development, advocacy, and local governance.

Each of the 178 districts across our state is distinct with its own unique strengths and challenges. Networking in leadership inspires us to explore ways to best meet the educational needs of every student every day and inspires the best in ourselves, our students, educators, and local communities.

During my 7-year tenure on the Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education I have relentlessly advocated for strong public schools. Through collaborative advocacy and common ground, we strengthen CASB's voice in its efforts to address common priorities. I strive to elevate initiatives such as proper funding in education, addressing teacher pay, safeguarding educational opportunities for our most at-risk students, and CASB's goal to restore Colorado's constitutional balance of authority and responsibility between state officials and locally elected school boards.

With 3 decades of service in education, my background spans from early childhood education, special education advocacy, fundraising, and extensive volunteer work across advisory boards and civic groups. Seven years representing D38 as a CASB delegate and serving on the CASB Board of Directors and Legislative Resolutions Committee have enriched my understanding of our shared goals.

As D38's board president, I collaborate closely with local entities on initiatives that prioritize student advancement, staff morale, board leadership, community engagement, and fiscal stewardship. Thank you for your consideration in elevating passionate advocacy and dedicated leadership.

Sincerely,

Tiffiney Upchurch

President, Board of Education, Lewis-Palmer School District 38

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) proactively empowers local boards of education to enrich public schools, ensuring every student fully realizes their potential. CASB provides school board members with a wealth of resources, knowledge, and training to enhance their governance roles, advocacy work, and strengthen stakeholder relationships.

I am enthusiastic about deepening my understanding of school board leadership, commitment to being a strong voice and advocate for every student every day, and being a collaborative partner and liaison between fellow CASB board members across Colorado, Region 6, and my community.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. I am passionate about advocacy through leadership and collaboration, aiming to push forward the critical dialogues that affect public education in Colorado through CASB. Our role is pivotal in uniting local school board members and stakeholders to elevate student success in our state. Amid the balance of local autonomy and navigating unfunded mandates, I am eager to broaden discussions on collaborative initiatives that truly advance success for all unique learners.

Navigating the intersection of shared interests amongst our diverse districts across the state is challenging yet essential, particularly in ensuring Amendment 23 is honored, IDEA is fully funded, and that all students have access to learn in a safe and healthy environment. My goal is steadfast: to serve effectively and not rest on our laurels-fostering passion, persistence, and purpose. Colorado's diverse districts must work cohesively within our local distinctive framework to uplift education in our state.

Monica Furey  
1218 La Paloma Way  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
drmonicafurey@gmail.com 719-330-0623

Colorado Association of School Boards  
2253 S. Oneida Street  
Denver, CO 80224

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Tiffiney Upchurch, who has announced her candidacy for the CASB Board of Directors as a representative of Region 6.

Tiffiney and I have been acquainted through CASB and various local activities since she was elected to the Lewis-Palmer 38 board in 2017. She has a deep understanding of her district and stakeholder needs, understands the multiple perspectives of her community, and leads with a lens that is always focused on what is best for the children of LPSD.

Tiffiney has proven her value as a contributing member of her local board and the other community service organizations to which she belongs. (A non-exhaustive list follows: BOE liaison to multiple community and advisory committees;

D38 Education Foundation; Special Education Advisory Committee; Career Technical Education Leadership Committee; Preschool Advisory Committee; District Accountability Committee; Guiding Coalition Committee; Staff Collaboration Committee; BOE liaison to Tri Lakes Chamber of Commerce; volunteer work in schools for 17 years; Children's Ministry Director; Autism Advocacy work; Senate District 9 chair, precinct leader, delegate, CO State Liberty Caucus secretary) Thanks to her thoughtful leadership, she holds a respected role in her larger community. She has represented LPSD as the CASB delegate for the last 6 years. Her understanding of both local district and wider state-level issues is both broad and deep. I am confident that Tiffiney will represent the entirety of Region 6 with dedication and engagement.

I am certain that the members of Region 6 as well as state-wide CASB members will find Tiffiney Upchurch to be an engaged, perceptive member of the CASB team. She has a clear understanding of the commitment required for meaningful service and will well represent CASB's diverse constituency while maintaining her focus on the Region 6 districts. I fully endorse Tiffiney's candidacy.

Warm regards,

Monica Furey

Past President, Board of Education, CMSD12

Past President, Colorado Association of School Boards



October 28, 2024  
Ms. Lindley McCrary, President, Board of Directors  
Colorado Association of School Boards  
2253 S. Oneida Street  
Denver, CO 80224

Dear Ms. McCrary and CASB Board of Directors,

I am writing to you with great enthusiasm to recommend Tiffiney Upchurch for the Region 6 Director position with the Colorado Association of School Boards. As the Vice President of the Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Board, I have had the honor of closely observing and engaging in Tiffiney's exceptional work ethic, her dynamic leadership, and her unwavering commitment to public education.

Tiffiney's tenure on our board since 2017 has been nothing short of transformative. Her deep-seated belief in the ethos of "Every Student, Every Day" is not just a motto but the cornerstone of her approach to governance and advocacy. Tiffiney's initiatives have tangibly uplifted our educational landscape in D38. She stands steadfast in bolstering a culture of achievement, inclusion, and equity. She is a champion for innovative opportunities and multiple pathways that meet the educational needs of every D38 student. She assisted in the successful launch of D38's annual Aliorum De awards ceremony which recognizes staff, student, and community contributions to special needs education. She has developed a continuity handbook that provides a leadership framework for board succession planning and policy. Tiffiney is currently a champion for D38's Innovation Career and Technology Center that is slated to open Sept. 2025.

Tiffiney is a leader who is not only visible but accessible, dedicating countless hours to school visits, committee meetings, and community events. Her diverse liaison roles—from the Education Foundation to the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce and various advisory committees—exemplify her dedication to multifaceted community engagement. Tiffiney has a strength to first seek understanding from multiple perspectives and has been a driving force in comprehensive community engagement initiatives and stakeholder committees that ensure equitable representation and collaboration on key district issues. A testament to Tiffiney's impact is the McGuffey Award recognition she rightfully earned for her outstanding contributions to local education.

Her advocacy extends far beyond our local community, as seen in her role with the CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee, her self-financed trip to advocate in DC with NSBA, and as our delegate to CASB. Tiffiney's voice has been influential in statewide and national advocacy on crucial issues like increased funding for education in Colorado, IDEA, and the importance of local control.

Tiffiney Upchurch's dynamic leadership, proven governance experience, and heartfelt service to education render her an exemplary candidate for the CASB Director 6 position. Her strategic vision, paired with a profound commitment to serving all students and educators, will undoubtedly contribute to the CASB mission on a larger scale. I urge you to consider Tiffiney Upchurch for this prestigious role. Her dedicated service, strategic leadership, and advocacy work are the hallmarks of an exceptional director for the Colorado Association of School Boards.

Sincerely,  
Kris Norris  
Vice President, Board of Education  
Lewis-Palmer School District 38

# *REGION 7*

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## One 3-year term

### **Leah Helme, Steamboat Springs RE-2**

Madame President,

My name is Leah Helme, and I am running for a seat on the CASB Board of Directors, to represent Region 7. Although I am a product of Public Education, I was a stranger to the complexities of the public education until September of 2023, when my daughter's school sent out multiple communications advertising an opening for the local Board of Education. When I started to research what it meant to be a member of the Board of Education, CASB was there ready with information. The expectations outlined in Built to Serve helped me to realize some of my inner strengths, and ultimately gave me the confidence to apply.

Shortly after stepping into my role as a member of my district's board of education, I was immersed even further into the world of Public Education, its complexities, its struggles, but also its strengths, and inspiration, and again, CASB was right there, welcoming teaching, and leading conversations from across the state at their annual convention. CASB has helped me to realize my strengths, and I would love to have the opportunity to give back to the organization as a member of its Board of Directors. While I still consider myself a new board member, I have found a passion for advocacy and support of the public education system, while contributing to an organizational association that supports Colorado School Boards.

Sincerely,

Leah Helme

lheme@ssk12.org

719-321-9725

Steamboat Springs, CO. 80487

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. As a membership organization I feel it is CASB's roll to support its members through education, and advocacy, while being a leader in conversation and support of public education. I feel I will be an effective contributor to the CASB board of directors because I believe in its vision of excellence in public education through leadership and action, and I am excited to serve. CASB has supported me in journey of being a member of my local school board, and I am excited for the opportunity to give back.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. A real driver in my understanding of the public education system, has been through my involvement on the CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee. In my short time as a board member for the Steamboat Springs Board of Education, I have compiled an end of the legislative session presentation for my board and provided background information for a resolution opposing Amendment 80. I am passionate about government work, and getting others involved. I have also been inspired by the dedication and vision of my fellow members of the Legislative Resolutions Committee, known as the LRC Core, and the work they have done to strengthen CASB's Legislative Priorities. If elected as a CASB Board member I feel I would contribute to the advancement of CASB's Advocacy priority in Region 7.

Christine Slater  
Day Program Coordinator  
Horizons Specialized Services  
100 Park Ave  
Steamboat Springs, CO, 80487  
cslater@horizonsnwc.org  
224-830-2876

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to recommend Leah Helme for a position on the CASB Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of working alongside her for the three years I have worked at Horizons Specialized Services, where she has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, insight and compassion for our clients.

In her various roles at Horizons Specialized Services, Leah Helme has made significant contributions that have positively impacted our clients and the broader Steamboat Springs community. She has deep compassion and a strong commitment for advocating for all our clients.

Furthermore, Leah Helme is an excellent leader and advocate. She regularly takes the initiative to advocate for clients, share her expertise and mentor others within the organization, and continuously work to improve the culture within the organization for increased collaboration and integration. She has taken time to mentor myself and provide valuable advice that has allowed me to advance within the organization. Her ability to listen and communicate effectively makes her an invaluable asset to any team or board.

I am confident that Leah Helme's experience, vision, and dedication will be instrumental in shaping the future of the CASB Board of Directors in the state. She will bring thoughtful insights and a collaborative spirit to the board.

Thank you for considering Leah Helme for this important position. Please feel free to contact me at [cslater@horizonsnwc.org](mailto:cslater@horizonsnwc.org) if you have any further questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,  
Christine Slater  
Routt County Day Program Coordinator

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Leah Helme to the Colorado Association of School Boards.

I have worked alongside Ms. Helme for 12 years. She is among the most diligent, organized and passionate people I have come across.

When Leah coordinated a Horizons group home, she worked tirelessly to instill life skills to individuals with developmental disabilities. She was so successful that one of her charges moved on to live in a graduated independent setting.

Ms. Helme was later promoted to the Day Program Coordinator – a position which she tirelessly researched and prepared for. During her tenure, she set new standards in programming, supervision and care.

Leah is a forward-thinker who keeps her eye on the Big Picture while ensuring that details are addressed. She is entrenched in our community and is an untiring advocate for the causes she embraces.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions about Ms. Helme's qualifications.

Sincerely,

Tommy Larson  
Steamboat Springs, CO  
(970) 846-0406  
[Tommy58larson@gmail.com](mailto:Tommy58larson@gmail.com)

# *REGION 11*

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## One 1-year term

### **Sarah Fishing, Montrose County RE-1J - Incumbent**

Dear Ms. McCrary

I am contacting you to express my interest in being nominated to the CASB Board of Directors for the Region 11 seat. I am a board member on the Montrose County School District RE-1J (MCSD) School Board which is in Region 11 and a member of CASB.

I am interested in serving on the CASB Board of Directors as I believe that the Association provides vital services to its members in the following areas:

- Advocacy
- Professional development and education
- Board training
- Legal support

Since being elected to the MCSD Board of Education (BOE) I have been impressed by the support and services provided to districts and board members by CASB. If successful in my application for the Region 11 seat my objective would be to ensure that CASB continues in its mission to advance excellence and equity in public education for every Colorado student. In my experience this work is critical to the continued improvement of our public education system across Colorado and therefore worthy of the time and attention that will be required should I be nominated to the seat.

I believe I am well-qualified to serve on the CASB Board of Directors as I have several years of experience on my home BOE having been elected in 2017. I have served as our Vice President and President and have sought throughout my time on our Board to ensure that our students are at the forefront of our minds when we make decisions. This experience has given me great insight into the role of local School Boards, as well as the needs of our students and staff. Professionally I have over a decade of experience in higher education, as well as other unrelated industries. This has provided perspective on the role of public education in our local, regional, state and national economy and the important impact that high quality public education can have on the individual, the family and the wider community.

I hope you will consider my application and I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely

Sarah Fishing

President, Montrose County School District (RE-1J) School Board

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. CASB's role is to provide member Districts and their School Boards with appropriate support through training, education and professional development opportunities that help strengthen local boards, improve their functionality and help equip them to serve their district's to the best of their ability. Additionally, CASB provides advocacy for public education across Colorado as well as on a national level through it's relationships with regional, state and national stakeholders. As a membership organization CASB must take direction from its member school boards and act upon that direction as it strives to fulfill its mission of advancing excellence and equity for all Colorado Students. I would effectively contribute to the work of the CASB Board of Directors through focused and thoughtful input to board discussion and decision-making. Additionally, my collaborative work style will allow me to work with other board members in a highly constructive manner, as demonstrated by my work on the MCSD BOE.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. Although I believe all four of CASB's priorities should be top of mind for CASB board members, the leadership priority is critical as our ability to strive for any of the other three priorities as an Association and as members of our local School Boards stems from our ability to lead effectively. If nominated to the Regional 11 seat I will work to advance the priority of leadership development by providing constructive input on CASB's leadership development training and programming. Not only will I try to ensure that we consider the quality and content of that programming, but I will also make sure proper consideration is given to the accessibility of that programming for all member boards. Public education has rarely been in greater need of solid leaders who are willing to advocate unwaveringly for the needs of their students, staff and communities, CASB's role in supporting those leaders and helping them develop in their role is crucial.

January 4, 2023

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Sarah Fishing

To: Barb Clementi  
CASB Board President

Dear Barb:

My name is Phoebe Benziger and I have been asked by Sarah Fishing to write a letter of recommendation in her pursuit of an appointment to the Region 11 CASB Board and I am delighted to do so.

I served with Sarah on the RE-1J School Board from 2018-2020. As a new director, she immediately volunteered to tackle and decipher board policies in addition to working with administration to adopt a new curriculum. Sarah never attended any meeting without being prepared and willing to contribute. Her passion for education has been demonstrated by the decision she's made that benefit both students and staff in our district. Sarah has the advantage of being educated in Great Britain which broadens her perspectives. She currently serves as President of our School Board and is well respected by both administration and staff.

She feels it is very important to attend the CASB annual meetings. She embraces the opportunity to share our successes and challenges with other districts around Colorado. These exchanges have been a huge benefit to our district.

Sarah is an excellent communicator and has proven to be a person who is easy to work with in these challenging times. She is very disciplined, intelligent, and has a great sense of humor. She is a valuable member of our community and I know that she will be an excellent CASB board member.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Phoebe Benziger  
970-209-9598



1/6/2023

Dear Barb Clementi

This letter serves as an enthusiastic and resounding show of support for the appointment of Sarah Fishing to the Colorado Association of School Boards. Sarah has proven to demonstrate qualities necessary to benefit the children, teachers and superintendents of the 178 school boards in the state of Colorado. Sarah possesses distinctly unique experiences and knowledge which have been beneficial to our local school board and would share those experiences with others at the state level.

Sarah is known as a generous, thoughtful and decisive leader. Since 2021 she has served as the President of the RE-1J school board and previously as the Vice President from 2020-2021. She has been on the school board since 2017. As you know these particular years of 2019-2021 have been challenging times for all school boards and school board officials. Through careful attention to policy Sarah has been instrumental in ensuring the school board remains focused on its roles and responsibilities.

Sarah's list of accomplishments that most qualify her for a position on the CASB board include reviewing and updating foundational documents and board policies for the district. Sarah has updated numerous policies that required changes including, but not limited to those addressing school safety, non-discrimination, early literacy, reading comprehension and graduation requirements. Generally, the RE-1J school board consistently reviews 3-8 policies each month which is quite a lift! Remarkably, Sarah demonstrated patience, resilience and wise decision making during the pandemic. At a time when all board members were under pressure from the state and local governments' public health orders, mandates and school board policies, Sarah maintained her north star of keeping kids safe while still making sure educators had what they needed to guide students.

Sarah has extensive experience in directing policy, instituting compliance and reporting initiatives, managing budgets, grant writing and management, data analysis and finding creative ways to work with multiple entities while keeping a keen eye on the vision and mission of an organization.

As a board member, and now board president, Sarah has been a leader that encourages contributions from the entire team, seeks new opinions and explores alternate viewpoints. As a board member of several organizations myself I find that having a board president with this philosophy refreshing. All too often leaders neglect to engage and find ways to extract original ideas and perspectives.

At the bedrock of being a productive and valuable board member, managing the people in any cohort or organization is critical. Sarah has a talent for managing relationships. She is respected for her ability to form strong relationships and build consensus among colleagues. She doesn't shy away from conflict ( a naturally occurring phenomenon among school boards) and instead finds ways to build the bridges that allow for open, honest and meaningful discussions which lead to resolution and finally, to transformational decisions. Without one doubt, Sarah will be a true asset to the CASB board of directors. I can honestly say, that you would be lucky to have her!

Sue Hansen, Commissioner  
Montrose County

# *REGION 13*

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One 1-year term

**None**

# *REGION 13*

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## One 3-year term

### **Dr. Anne Keke, Aurora Public Schools - Incumbent**

Dear Mrs. McCrary,

I am writing to express my intent to re-run for my seat on the CASB Board of Directors for Region 13 formerly known as large district. As a dedicated board member in Region 13, I am eager to continue to contribute my experience and passion for education to this esteemed organization.

My motivation to serve on the CASB Board stems from my commitment to advancing educational excellence and equity within our different communities. Having worked closely with CASB, I have witnessed the significant impact our initiatives have on school districts, the teachers, and the students we serve. I am particularly drawn to the opportunity to influence policy and advocate for resources that enhance educational outcomes for all students.

I believe I am well-qualified to continue to serve on the CASB Board of Directors due to my extensive background in education and leadership. I have served as the CASB region 13 representative for three years, during which I have become the president of my local district. I have advocated for the legislature to respect and keep local board autonomy and authority on behalf of CASB members and helped on various CASB committees. This experience has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within our educational system. Additionally, my strong collaborative skills and commitment to fostering relationships among diverse stakeholders will allow me to effectively represent the interests of our region.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of continuing to contribute to the vital work of CASB and advocating for the needs of our districts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anne Keke

CASB board of Director Region 13

**1. Describe your understanding of CASB's role as a membership organization and how you see yourself becoming an effective contributor on the CASB Board of Directors?**

- a. CASB serves as a critical support network for school boards in Colorado, providing advocacy, resources, and professional development. It fosters collaboration among districts, enabling them to share best practices and tackle common challenges effectively. As a current CASB member involved in the Legislative Resolutions Committee, Finance Committee, Curriculum Committee, and others, I have developed a strong understanding of the diverse issues facing our schools. I am dedicated to promoting the interests of all districts, ensuring that our collective voice is heard and advocating for local control. My experiences have equipped me with the skills to engage stakeholders, drive initiatives, and facilitate meaningful discussions on my local board, at the state level and also at the national level. As a CASB Board of director, I will continue to work to enhance member engagement, strengthen partnerships, and advocate for policies that support the success of all students. I am committed to bringing my enthusiasm and collaborative spirit to help CASB achieve its mission.

**2. Given CASB's priorities, please choose one and tell us how you would contribute to advancing this priority as a new CASB board member?**

- a. One of CASB's current priorities is enhancing student achievement through effective governance, a priority I take seriously. As a member of multiple committees on the CASB board, I have witnessed firsthand the impact that informed decision-making can have on educational outcomes. I will continue to focus on developing training initiatives that will empower board members to be effective leaders and advocates for their districts. I will continue to advocate for the sharing of data-driven strategies and best practices that enhance student performance. I aim to encourage collaboration among board members, allowing us to learn from one another's successes and challenges. Additionally, I will work to ensure that governance practices continue to align with the latest educational research, so that board members can implement effective strategies that lead to improved student outcomes. My goal is to foster a culture of continuous improvement and support for all board members that can lead to the success of all Colorado students.

October 22, 2024

Dear President Lindley McCrary & CASB Members:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of Dr. Anne Keke, the current president of the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education. I sent you a letter of recommendation 3 years ago on her behalf. I still believe that she would be an incredibly effective board member for the Colorado Association of School Boards.

We all have witnessed her work both on the CASB board and on the Aurora Public School Board of Education. Dr. Keke brings a personal passion and determination for problem-solving to her governance work. She leads by example and is very solution oriented. Dr. Keke has made tremendous changes to the board of APS that have shown on the district performance this year.

As the board president of APS, she has demonstrated exemplary leadership and reshaped the board’s image and work in her district. Some of the things she has done on the board of APS since becoming president was improving the board’s intercommunication and student results monitoring which has led her District to become Accredited with Improvement. I also know that on the CASB board she advocates for her district and has been very active in the past 2 years, by serving on different committees such as FRN, Finance, Curriculum, and LRC. She is astute, as demonstrated in her deep community ties, advocacy work, and extensive civic engagement—earning respect, building rapport, while being humble, accessible, and a trusted ambassador for all the student population of APS and their teachers.

Most importantly, Dr. Keke is a woman who embraces and epitomizes the qualities that must define public service—integrity, transparency, accountability, and mission-driven. In the past years, her engagement with CASB has sharpened her knowledge of the Colorado education system and improved her leadership skills tremendously, making even more compassionate and an avid advocate for teachers.

Dr. Keke will continue to be extremely valuable to CASB and strengthen her district. She still has my unmitigated support and recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jason Gauden, Partner  
Oak Rose Group  
jason@oakrosegroup.com  
719-238-1200 | oakrosegroup.com



**Council of the Great City Schools®**

**Council of the Great City Schools®**  
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**MEMBER DISTRICTS**

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- Atlanta
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- Columbus
- Dallas
- Dayton
- Denver
- Des Moines
- Detroit
- Duval County
- East Baton Rouge
- El Paso
- Fayette County (Lexington)
- Fort Worth
- Fresno
- Guilford County
- Hawaii
- Hillsborough County
- Houston
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- Jefferson County, KY
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- Seattle
- Shelby County
- St. Louis
- St. Paul
- Toledo
- Tulsa
- Washington, D.C.
- Washoe County
- Wichita

Colorado Association of School Boards  
2253 South Oneida Street, Suite 300.  
Denver, Colorado 80224

Colorado Association of School Boards and Madam President Lindley McCrary,

The Council of the Great City Schools, the nation’s primary coalition of large urban public-school systems, offers its enthusiastic support for Dr. Anne Keke to be re-elected on the CASB board as a Director. Ms. Keke is the current president of the Board of Directors for the Aurora (CO) Public School District and an active member of the Council’s school board governance support team.

Dr. Keke is widely known and respected in her community and by her colleagues across the country. She is a long-time member and leader in the African Leadership Group and joined the CASB board in 2022. During her tenure on her local board, Dr. Keke has helped to ensure that relationships between students, teachers, and administrators are strengthened. She brings a wealth of experience in restorative and juvenile justice practices to the district. Her work also shows on the CASB board as she has advocated and testified for or against several State bills on behalf of CASB as a LRC committee member.

Dr. Keke will continue to serve the CASB Board well and keep the needs of students and schools front and center. As an advocate for a stronger public education system, Dr. Keke brings a unique perspective to the Governing Board and will continue to make an outstanding Director. The Council of the Great City Schools is pleased to strongly recommend Anne Keke to continue to serve as the Director of Region 13. on the Colorado Association of School Boards.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Hart, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Council of the Great City Schools

# ***SUBMITTED BUSINESS ITEMS***

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## **Resolution #1**

### **Submitted by the Calhan RJ-1 Board of Education**

CASB supports the use of state and other resources to launch a public education campaign which explains and encourages the responsibilities of the tripartite partnership that is essential for the educational process to be successful and focuses on obvious truths, such as

- (1) Schools can and must provide competent instruction, materials, relevant curriculum, safe space, and inspiration for students to choose to succeed,
- (2) Exerting the effort to succeed is a daily choice that can be encouraged by the school and the parent, but can only be made by the student,
- (3) Attendance is a requirement for student academic achievement and is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Schools cannot impact students who do not attend in person or virtually, and,
- (4) Overtly stating these truths provide students with the most realistic foundation for post-secondary success.

# ***SUBMITTED BUSINESS ITEMS***

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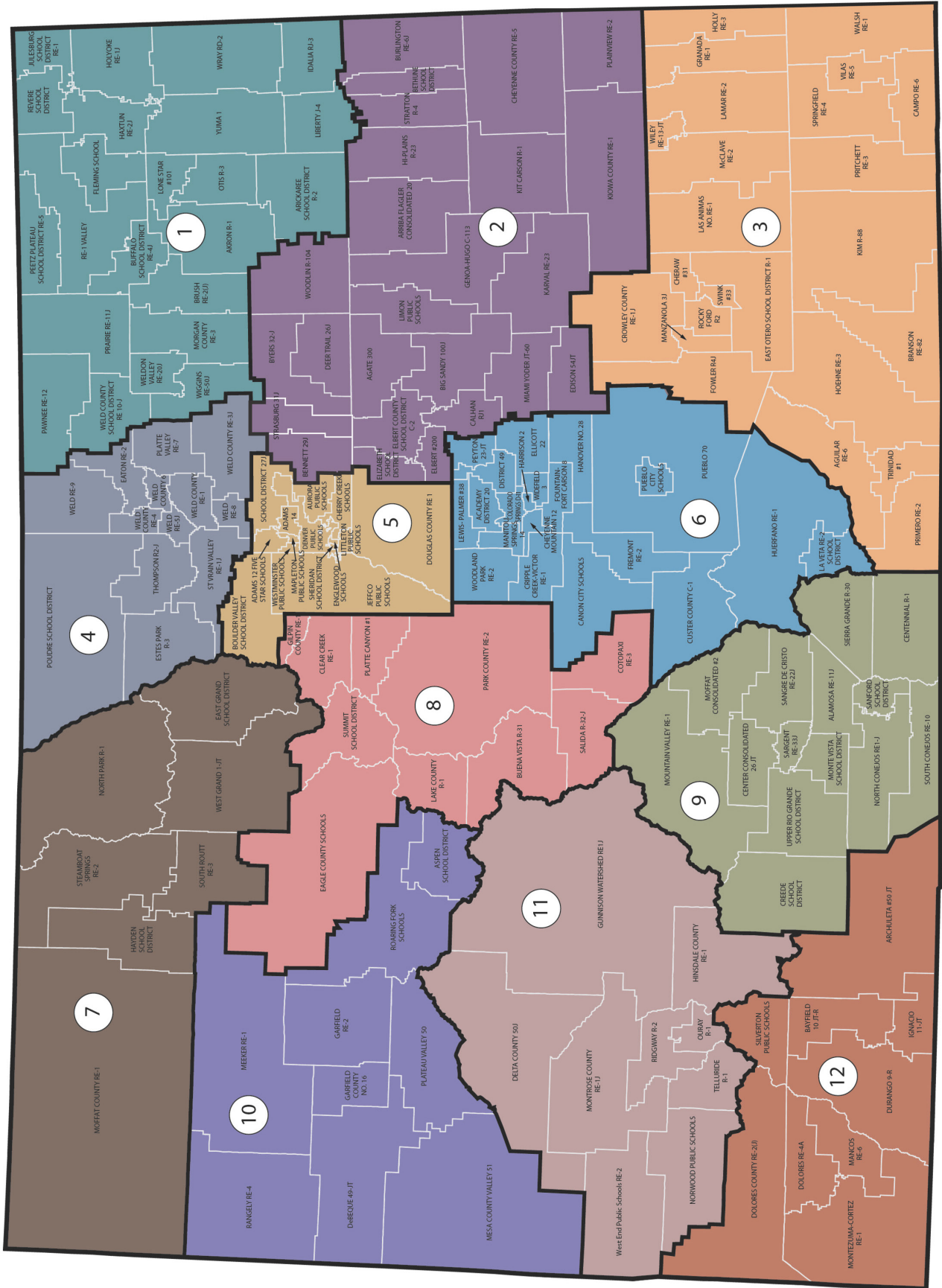
## **Resolution #2**

### **Submitted by the St. Vrain Valley RE-1J Board of Education**

CASB supports adopting the Accreditation and Accountability Task Force’s recommendations on opportunity, advancement, and equity in K-12 public schools that align with CASB priorities for student achievement.



# Districts by CASB Region



## REGION 1

Akron R-1  
Arickaree R-2 Fleming  
School District Haxtun  
RE-2J Holyoke Re-1J  
Idalia RJ-3 Julesburg  
RE-1 Liberty J-4  
Lone Star #101 Morgan  
County RE-3 Otis R-3  
Pawnee RE-12 Peetz  
Plateau RE-5 Prairie  
RE-11J  
RE-1 Valley  
Revere School District  
Weld County RE-10  
Weldon Valley RE-20J  
Wiggins RE-50J Wray  
RD-2  
Yuma 1

## REGION 2

Agate 300  
Arriba-Flagler CSD #20  
Bennett 29J  
Bethune Schools  
Big Sandy 100J  
Burlington RE-6J  
Byers 32-J  
Calhan RJ1  
Cheyenne County RE-5  
Deer Trail 26J  
Edison #54JT  
Elbert #200  
Elbert County C-2  
Elizabeth School District  
Genoa-Hugo C-113  
Hi-Plains R-23  
Karval RE-23  
Kiowa RE-1  
Kit Carson R-1  
Limon Public Schools  
Miami Yoder JT-60  
Plainview RE-2  
Strasburg #31J  
Stratton R-4  
Woodlin R-104

## REGION 3

Aguilar RE-6  
Branson RE-82  
Campo RE-6  
Cheraw #31  
Crowley County RE-1J  
East Otero School District R-1  
Fowler R4J  
Granada RE-1  
Hoehne RE-3  
Holly RE-3  
Kim R-88  
Lamar RE-2  
Las Animas No. RE-1  
Manzanola 3J  
McClave RE-2  
Primero RE-2  
Pritchett RE-3  
Rocky Ford R2  
Springfield RE-4  
Swink #33  
Trinidad #1  
Vilas RE-5  
Walsh RE-1  
Wiley RE13 Jt.

## REGION 4

Eaton RE-2  
Estes Park R-3  
Poudre R-1  
St. Vrain Valley RE-1J  
Thompson R2-J  
Weld County RE-3(J)  
Weld County 6  
Weld RE-5J  
Weld RE-1  
Weld RE-4  
Weld RE-7  
Weld RE-8  
Weld RE-9

## REGION 5

Adams 12 Five Star Schools  
Adams 14  
Boulder Valley School District  
School District 27J  
Englewood Schools  
Littleton Public Schools  
Mapleton Public Schools  
Sheridan Schools  
Westminster School

## REGION 6

Academy District 20  
Cañon City RE-1  
Cheyenne Mountain 12  
Colorado Springs 11  
Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1  
CSDB  
Custer County C-1  
Ellicott 22  
Falcon 49  
Fountain-Fort Carson 8  
Fremont RE-2  
Hanover 28  
Harrison 2  
Huerfano RE-1  
La Veta RE-2  
Lewis-Palmer 38  
Manitou Springs 14  
Peyton 23-Jt  
Pueblo No. 60  
Pueblo No. 70  
Widefield 3

## REGION 7

East Grand Schools  
Hayden Schools  
Moffat County RE-1  
North Park R-1  
South Routt RE-3  
Steamboat Springs RE-2  
West Grand 1-JT

## REGION 8

Buena Vista R-31  
Clear Creek RE-1  
Cotopaxi RE-3  
Eagle County RE-50J  
Gilpin County RE-1  
Lake County R-1  
Park RE-2  
Platte Canyon No. 1  
Salida R-32-J  
Summit School District

## REGION 9

Alamosa RE-11J  
Centennial R-1  
Center Consolidated 26JT  
Creede School District  
Moffat Consolidated #2  
Monte Vista Schools  
Mountain Valley RE-1  
North Conejos RE1-J  
Sanford School District  
Sangre de Cristo RE-22J  
Sargent RE-33J  
Sierra Grande R-30  
South Conejos RE-10  
Upper Rio Grande

## REGION 10

Aspen School District  
DeBeque 49-JT  
Garfield RE-2  
Garfield 16  
Meeker RE-1  
Mesa County Valley #51  
Plateau Valley #50  
Rangely RE-4  
Roaring Fork RE-1

## REGION 11

Delta County 50J  
Gunnison Watershed RE1J  
Hinsdale County RE-1  
Montrose County RE-1J  
Norwood Public Schools  
Ouray R-1  
Ridgway School R-2  
Telluride R-1  
West End Schools RE-2

## REGION 12

Archuleta 50J  
Bayfield 10 Jt-R  
Dolores County RE-2(J)  
Dolores RE-4A  
Durango 9-R  
Ignacio 11-JT  
Mancos RE-6  
Montezuma-Cortez RE-1  
Silverton Public Schools

## Region 13

Aurora Public Schools  
Cherry Creek Schools  
Denver Public Schools  
Douglas County RE-1  
Jefferson County Schools