

Ohio School Boards Association

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Northeast Ohio school board member nominated as OSBA president-elect

COLUMBUS — A northeast Ohio school board member was recently selected as the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) 2021 president-elect nominee. If elected during OSBA's statewide conference in November, Robert M. Heard Sr. will become OSBA president in 2022 following his term as president-elect.

The 15-year Cleveland Municipal Schools board member currently serves as his board's vice president, a role he has held since 2017. He also served as board president from 2007-2009.

At OSBA, Heard is in his 13th year on the association's Board of Trustees and serves on the Executive Committee, Urban Network, Diversity and Equity Committee and Legislative Platform Committee, among others. The retired claims investigator also is the OSBA Northeast Region president and represents Ohio in the National School Boards Association Delegate Assembly and Federal Relations Network.

Heard believes the association's role is to "remain a source of educational excellence and a respected voice of public education while at the same time understanding that these goals must remain at the heart of what we do. We must stay fluid enough to address our changing landscape."

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In his school district, Heard has been on the board's Say Yes to Education Planning Committee since 2017 and served the initiative as a mentor. He also has been extremely involved in the Cleveland Transformation Alliance Committee and Levy Planning Committee.

"I want to thank everyone at OSBA and my fellow applicants for their support and confidence in my nomination," Heard said. "If elected, I promise to be the person the association needs and expects as a leader."

Heard and his wife, Gennorris, have four children, all products of public schools.

Founded in 1955, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

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Note: A photo of Heard is available for download at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/77518>.