

For Immediate Release

MABE Announces Joy Schaefer, Former Member of the Frederick County Board of Education, Selected 2020 Distinguished School Board Service Award Recipient

Annapolis, MD July 9, 2020 - The Maryland Association of Boards of Education has announced the selection of Joy Schaefer as the Distinguished School Board Service Award Recipient for 2020.

This award is presented to a board member who has made outstanding contributions to public education through school board service in Maryland. Schaefer was selected from among several highly qualified nominees recommended by local boards of education.

Schaefer served on the Frederick County Board of Education for seven years, from 2012 to 2019, where she was elected as both vice president and president soon after joining the board in recognition of her leadership abilities, vision, and organizational expertise. In addition to the customary board member responsibilities, she also willingly assumed the role of mentor, first to school board candidates during an information session and more officially to new board members after their election.

In addition to her work on the Frederick County School Board, Schaefer was extraordinarily active in MABE, serving as the Association's President and chair of several committees—Legislative, Conference Program, School Funding Adequacy, and Nominating. Schaefer notably represented MABE on the Kirwan Commission where she played a key role by chairing one of the Commission's four policy workgroups.

"[Schaefer's] colleagues and school system leaders recognized the candidate as a bridge builder who helps people find common goals and interests and works collaboratively to reach consensus. By building productive and collegial working relationships, the candidate enables everyone around them to design and manage the best policies for students, families, and staff," Schaefer's award submission narrative states. "For more than a decade, the candidate has utilized their abilities on behalf of organizations focused on empowering families, serving young people, and building community."

MABE President, Martha James Hassan, states, "Joy Schaefer is most deserving of this significant honor. Her insights and unwavering commitment to excellence in education for each child have been a gift to Frederick County, MABE, and the State of Maryland. Her kindness is balanced by a steadfast commitment to doing what is right for the right reasons. It is a great honor to offer her congratulations, along with my gratitude for her service to MABE, Frederick County, and the State of Maryland."

The award will be presented at the Maryland Association of Boards of Education Annual Conference in Annapolis, Maryland, in October 2021.

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Founded in 1957, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland. MABE is a leading advocate for public education in the state.

All 24 Maryland boards of education are members of MABE.