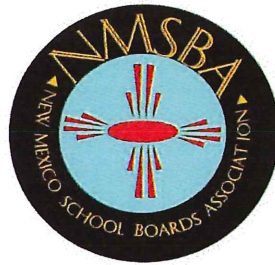


2024 Recognition Awards Nominations



**Hall of Fame Award Nomination
Dymorie Maker**

**Board Member of the Year Nominations
Dr. Monica Renee Aragon
Priscilla Benally
Fran Dobey
Dale Maes
Inez Rodriguez**

**Board of the Year Nominations
Mesa Vista – Small District
West Las Vegas – Large District**



Hall of Fame

Criteria for Judging Award

Criteria listed are for your consideration when nominating your candidate. Your nominee may or may not **currently be serving as a local board member, but must have served at least **eight years** as a board member in New Mexico. Your nomination must meet four of the six remaining items listed below.*

- 1) Chosen Board Member of the Year
- 2) Served as a local board officer for four years or more
- 3) Served on an NMSBA committee for at least three years
- 4) Served as an NMSBA region officer for two years
- 5) Served as an NMSBA officer (state level)
- 6) Served as an NSBA officer or committee member (national level)

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____ Dymorie Maker _____

Address of Nominee: _____ Lovington, NM _____

Please submit:

- 1) This form filled out
- 2) Brief resume of the board member
- 3) Photo of the board member
- 4) Any other supporting nomination letters or documents

Nominator Name: _____ Marvyn Jaramillo _____

(Can be a board member, superintendent or other)

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at lvigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

Successful candidates must receive a positive vote from two-thirds majority of the voting Board of Directors. There will be a ballot for each candidate. There will be no competition between/among Hall of Fame nominees.

Deadline for submission: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist

Hall of Fame Nomination Checklist

Required:

The nominee has served at least 8 years service on the local board:
Nominee has served 10 years on local board. From _____ (year) to _____ (year).

The nominee must also meet at least four of six criteria below:

The nominee has been chosen as NMSBA Board Member of the Year. Year: _____

The nominee has served as a local school board officer for 4 years or more. (This would be Secretary, Vice-President or President). Offices held & dates those offices were held: _____
_____ President _____

The nominee has served on an NMSBA Committee for at least 3 years. (This includes Resolutions, Nominations or Policy committee). Committee(s) served on and dates of service:
_____ Resolutions and nominating committee _____

The nominee has served as an NMSBA regional office for at least 2 years. (This would be President, Vice-President or Secretary of a region.) Please list the region, the office and dates of service: _____
_____ Region VI President, Region VI Secretary _____

The nominee has held NMSBA Office. (This is for the NMSBA Executive Board and would be Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President, President-Elect, President or Past-President).
NMSBA Executive Board offices held & dates of service: _____
NMSBA current Past President, President, President elect, Vice President and Secretary/treasure _____

The nominee has held NSBA office or served on an NSBA committee. (Examples: NSBA Board Member, Caucus/Council Officer, Nominations or other committee.) Please list the office/committee and the dates of service: _____
NSBA nominating committee, Delegate- National Delegate Assembly and Western region
Conference and NSBA Nominating Committee _____

I, Marvyn Jaramillo, would like to nominate Dymorie Maker for the 2024 NMSBA Hall of Fame Award. Dymorie is currently serving as NMSBA's Past President and is presently on the Lovington Board of Education, serving public education for 10 years.

Dymorie has been a proactive force within NMSBA, consistently demonstrating her capabilities as a Master Board Member, President, and Secretary of NMSBA Region VI. Her proactive approach is evident in her service on various NMSBA committees and her roles as a National Delegate, Western Region conference Delegate, and NSBA Nominating Committee member.

I have had the opportunity to serve with Dymorie on the NMSBA Executive Board. While serving with Dymorie on the NMSBA executive board, I got to observe first-hand the passion and dedication Dymorie has for "All" students in public education.

I have witnessed Dymorie advocate for education at the National level, representing New Mexico board members in an outstanding professional manner. Dymorie is well-spoken and takes the lead on any obstacle that arises. In addition, she keeps up to date on all issues related to education at the state and national levels.

It is with a deep sense of honor and respect that I nominate Dymorie for this year's Hall of Fame award. Her contributions to NMSBA and public education are truly deserving of this recognition.

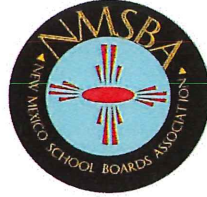
Marvyn Jaramillo

Mesa Vista Consolidated School

Resume

Dymorie Maker is currently the Past President of the New Mexico School Board Association. She has been a board member of education for 10 years at her local board, Lovington Municipal Schools, where she has held the positions of Board President and member. At the NMSBA level, Dymorie has held the positions of President-Elect, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. At the Region VI level, she held the position of President, Secretary, Board of Directors, and various committees while on the executive board. At the National Level, Dymorie has been Delegated to the National Delegate Assembly, Western Region Conference, and NSBA nomination committee. She is a Level I, II, Exemplary in training, and a Master Board Member for NMSBA. In addition, her civilian occupation is an early childhood instructional coach.





Board Member of the Year

Criteria for Judging Award

- 1) Active in local, region, state and national school board activities.
- 2) Exemplary service provided to students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts.
- 3) Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.
- 4) Minimum of Level I – Leadership Achievement in the Leadership Development Program.
- 5) Other training attended.

Nomination Form

Board Member Name: Dr. Monica Renee Aragon

Please submit:

- 1) Letter of nomination outlining the board member's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria set forth
- 2) Brief resume of the board member
- 3) Photo of the board member
- 4) Any other supporting nomination letters or documents

Nominator Name: Norma Cavazos, Superintendent

Board Member, Superintendent or other)

School District: Mora ISD

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at lvigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

Deadline for Submission: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist

MORA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 179, HWY 518 - 10 RANGER ROAD - MORA, NM 87732

<http://mora.k12.nm.us>

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DR. MONICA ARAGON, *Chair*
DORIS VELARDE, *Vice Chair*
AUDRA VIGIL, *Secretary*
VICKY VALDEZ, *Member*



ADMINISTRATION

NORMA CAVAZOS, *Superintendent*
MIGUEL MARTINEZ, *CFO*
LEFONSO CASTILLO, *MS/HS Principal*
TRACY ALCON, *Elementary Principal*

September 19, 2024

NM School Boards Association
Attention: Mr. Joe Guillen
300 Gallisteo, Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Guillen,

I am respectfully requesting your serious consideration of Dr. Monica Renee Aragon for NM School Board Member of the Year. She has served on the Mora Independent School Board for 3 years. During her tenure, her colleagues have unanimously chosen her to lead as Board President for two consecutive years. Dr. Aragon has attended two national school board conferences and is exceeding the required hours for school board members. She serves as the NMSBA Region III Vice President and is on the NMSBA Resolutions/Legislative Committee. As Board President, her vision is to improve academics, provide more academic/elective opportunities and making Mora ISD a model district.

As for Dr. Monica Renee Aragon the board president, community member, parent, and MISD supporter, she is an exemplary role model for all of us. During my tenure, I have witnessed Dr. Aragon's leadership when discussions regarding strategic planning and identifying district goals were the focus of our work. She places her energy in support of the district meeting its needs. She is thirsty for knowledge about the workings of the educational systems not only about academics and sports but about procurement and policy all the while staying within her lane as a board member. As board president, she has respected my efforts and decisions knowing that they were made in the best interest of MISD. I appreciate her respect for my expertise and value our professional discussions.

As a community member, Dr. Aragon brought robotics to the elementary grades. She engaged children with hands on experiences making learning fun. Her robotics program was active for six years in the school system and is now part of the local 4-H Club. To this day, parents and students talk about the fun they had and remain grateful to Dr. Aragon for having provided the robotics experience.

Dr. Aragon services on the Collins Lake Board of Directors. Collins Lake is a Mora community program whose mission is to provide supported living, education and therapeutic services in a nature-based setting. Because of her efforts, MISD and Collins Lake have partnered to provide our elementary students with experiential learning opportunities throughout the school year. Collins Lake also provides the social and emotional support our students desperately need due to COVID and subsequent Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fires.

As a parent, Dr. Aragon has been very active throughout her children's MISD school years. Her three children are highly gifted, two of which are currently excelling in their chosen careers. Her youngest child is a junior at Mora High School and is not only in advanced classes but serves in the Student Council as an officer. She is a natural leader like her mother. Dr. Aragon set the bar and the example for each of her children.

As a MISD supporter, she attends athletic and extracurricular activities showing support for all students. She is spearheading efforts for the construction of a new school that would replace our outdated facility, Her contacts with legislators have been instrumental in bringing in appropriations needed by the district. She is highly respected within the educational and legislative realms.

On a personal level, Dr. Aragon is a single parent, works full-time, maintains a high level of visibility in the community, the district and state while maintaining an exemplary status and reputation.


Respectfully,




Norma Cavazos
Superintendent



CONTACT

 505-718-9472

 monicaaragon2002@yahoo.com

 1352 State Highway 94, Mora,
NM 87732

EDUCATION

CHEMISTRY MAJOR

New Mexico Highlands University
1994-1997

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

University of New Mexico
1997-2001

PHARMACIST CLINICIAN

2004

MONICA ARAGON

PHARM. D., PH.C.

EXPERIENCE

PHARMACY DIRECTOR

Alta Vista Regional Hospital

August 2024-present

CLINICAL PHARMACIST

Alta Vista Regional Hospital

2001- Present

- Responsible for ensuring proper medication, dose, frequency, and route for all inpatient dispensing in a 32-bed hospital
- Consult for specific antibiotic regimens and clinical monitoring for medications per protocol/scope of practice, including Vancomycin, aminoglycosides, warfarin, DOACS, and IV-to-oral conversion
- Monitor outpatient infusions
- Supervise technicians in sterile IV compounding and clean room maintenance

INTERIM PHARMACY DIRECTOR

Alta Vista Regional Hospital

October 2021- December 2021

- Oversee compliance in all pharmacy operations
- Schedule pharmacy staff
- Monitor ordering of medication stock, maintain inventory, and lower costs
- Policy and Procedure updates
- Coordinated implementation of COVID-19 vaccine procurement, storage, and distribution to employees and public

CONSULTANT PHARMACIST

Collins Lake Ranch

2022-present

- Assume overall responsibility for pharmacy services of a boarding home for autistic patients. This includes their supportive personnel and procedures outlined in the procedures manual, including all records of drugs procured, administered, transferred, distributed, repackaged, and dispensed from Collins Lake Ranch.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Basic Life Support
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Smoking Cessation Prescriptive Authority
- Naloxone Prescriptive Authority
- Vaccine Prescriptive Authority

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Collins Lake Ranch Board of Directors
 - Mora Independent School Board, President
 - New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA) Region III Vice President
 - NMSBA Resolutions/Legislative Committee Member
 - 4-H Robotics Club Sponsor
 - UNM College of Pharmacy Preceptor
-

CONSULTANT PHARMACIST

Mora Valley Community Health Services, Caridad Adult Day Care Center, Mora School Based Health Center (started 2016), MVCHS Dental (started 2020), Mora SBHC Dental(started 2021)
2006-present

- Assume overall responsibility for the clinic's pharmacy services, supportive personnel, and the procedures outlined in the procedures manual, including all records of drugs procured, administered, transferred, distributed, repackaged, and dispensed from the clinics

CONSULTANT PHARMACIST

Northeast Regional Educational Cooperative: Bernalillo, Raton (currently still employed) and Santa Rosa SBHC
2012-2019

- Assume overall responsibility for multiple School Based Health Center's pharmacy services, supportive personnel, and the procedures outlined in the procedures manual, including all records of drugs procured, administered, transferred, distributed, repackaged, and dispensed from the clinic

CONSULTANT PHARMACIST

Mora County Emergency Medical Services, Mora, NM
2013-2017

- Assumed overall responsibility for the ambulance pharmacy service and for the procedures as outlined in the procedures manual, including all records of drugs procured, administered, transferred, distributed, or dispensed from EMS

GRADUATE INTERN

Walmart, las Vegas, NM
February 2001-July 2001

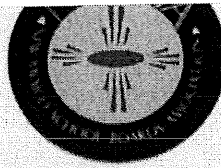
- Filled 250 or greater prescriptions daily
- Patient counseling
- Insurance billing and reimbursements

PHARMACEUTICAL SALES CONSULTANT

Glaxo Smith Kline
1999-2001

- Detail and provide information to physicians in Albuquerque, Gallup, Belen and the Northeast section of New Mexico.
- Maintained budget for sales in district





Board Member of the Year

Criteria for Judging Award

- 1) Active in local, region, state and national school board activities.
- 2) Exemplary service provided to students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts.
- 3) Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.
- 4) Minimum of Level I – Leadership Achievement in the Leadership Development Program.
- 5) Other training attended.

Nomination Form

Board Member Name: Priscilla Benally

Please submit:

- 1) Letter of nomination outlining the board member's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria set forth
- 2) Brief resume of the board member
- 3) Photo of the board member
- 4) Any other supporting nomination letters or documents

Nominator Name: Kevin Mitchell
(Can be a Board member, Superintendent or other)

School District: Gallup McKinley County School

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at lvigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

Deadline for Submission: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist



Nomination Letter for Priscilla Benally

September 18, 2024

New Mexico School Board Association,

I am honored to nominate **Priscilla Benally** for recognition based on her outstanding contributions to education and leadership at local, regional, state, and national levels. Her dedication and service have had a lasting and positive impact on the school district and the communities that she serves.

Active Involvement in School Board Activities

Priscilla has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing education through her active involvement in school board activities. Her leadership and contributions extend beyond the local level, as she actively participates in district, state, and national board associations. She serves on the national stage. As a Region 2 representative for New Mexico on the National Johnson O'Malley Association Board of Directors, she advocates tirelessly for Native American students. Her passion for revitalizing Native language and culture reflects her deep commitment to preserving and strengthening the cultural identity of future generations. Priscilla's leadership and advocacy ensure that the voices of Native American students are heard and their educational needs are prioritized. Through her role in these various capacities, she has shared her expertise, advocated for policies that benefit students, and built bridges among stakeholders to ensure educational equity and excellence.

Exemplary Service to Students, Staff, Parents, and Patrons

Throughout her nine-year tenure, Priscilla has provided exemplary service to the students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts. She is deeply attuned to the needs of her community, always seeking to create and support programs that foster academic achievement, social well-being, and overall student success. Her commitment to staff development, parental engagement, and community partnerships has strengthened the educational ecosystem, ensuring that every voice is heard and every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Significant Accomplishments and Positive Impact

Priscilla's contributions have led to numerous significant accomplishments that have had a profound impact on the school district. Under her leadership, the district has seen improved student performance, enhanced staff development programs, and greater collaboration with community organizations. Her strategic initiatives, such as the implementation of district wide strategic plan, innovative curricula, career readiness initiatives and student support services, have directly contributed to the district's success in meeting the diverse needs of its students.

Leadership Development Program – Level I Achievement

Priscilla has achieved a minimum of **Level I – Leadership Achievement** in the Leadership Development Program, demonstrating her commitment to continual professional growth and leadership excellence. She currently serves as the Region 1 President for NMSBA and actively participates in the Board of Directors meetings. In this role, she is also a member of the Nominating Committee and the Resolution/Legislative Committee, where she helps support and guide the board's work.

Priscilla, is a member of the National School Board Association (NSBA), National American Indian Alaska Native Council of School Board members (AIAN). As a member, her voice is heard to network and lead the national conversation about public education, advocate for public policies that ensure each student everywhere has access to an excellent public education where they live, create a better understanding of the importance of school boards and the benefits of local governance, and enhance the effectiveness of school boards.

She has leveraged her training and leadership skills to guide her district through challenges and to celebrate its many achievements. Her dedication to lifelong learning is reflected in the progressive initiatives she introduces to the board and the broader educational community.

Additional Training and Development

Beyond her formal achievements, Priscilla has actively pursued other training opportunities to enhance her knowledge and leadership capabilities. She regularly attends workshops, conferences, and professional development sessions on topics such as education policy, governance, school finances and student achievement. Her commitment to staying informed on the latest trends and challenges in education makes her a highly effective leader.

Priscilla is a dedicated advocate for students, consistently supporting them through her active involvement in various activities. She volunteers as a judge at science fairs and Native American pageants, and regularly attends local and state-level sporting events. Her commitment extends beyond her own high school, as she volunteers to attend graduation ceremonies district-wide, demonstrating her unwavering support for all students across the district.

In conclusion, Priscilla Benally exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educational leader. Her dedication to students, staff, parents, and the entire school community is unparalleled. I wholeheartedly nominate her for this honor of Board Member of the Year, I'm confident that her leadership and service will continue to make a positive and lasting impact.

Sincerely,
Kevin Mitchell,
GMCS Board Member
NMSBA Board Secretary

September 19, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am honored to write this letter in support of Priscilla Benally for the prestigious School Board Member of the Year Award. As the Superintendent of our district, I have had the privilege of working closely with Ms. Benally and can wholeheartedly affirm her dedication, expertise, and passion for ensuring the success of all students in New Mexico, particularly our Native American student population.

Ms. Benally has been a steadfast advocate for addressing the unique needs of Native American students, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met. Her commitment extends beyond any single demographic, as she is deeply passionate about equity and sufficiency for every student in New Mexico. She has consistently championed initiatives that prioritize student learning and access to resources, working tirelessly to bridge the gaps for underserved populations.

Moreover, Ms. Benally's vision for the New Mexico School Boards Association is equally inspiring. She is a driving force in promoting increased participation from minority communities and improving the Association's ability to serve all school districts effectively. Her leadership has been pivotal in ensuring that our state's school boards reflect the diversity of our student body and that all voices have a seat at the table.

Another area where Ms. Benally excels is in her expertise in student mental health and wellbeing. In a time when these issues have become critical to student success, her insight and advocacy are more important than ever. She has been a leading voice in promoting policies and programs that support the mental health of our students, recognizing that their well-being is integral to their academic performance and overall success.

You can always count on Ms. Benally to represent the hardworking school board members of New Mexico with dedication and integrity. Her insights and passion make her an invaluable asset not just to our district but to the entire state. I am confident that her recognition as School Board Member of the Year would only further elevate the work of the New Mexico School Boards Association in serving the needs of our students and communities.

Thank you for considering Priscilla Benally for this well-deserved honor. She embodies the qualities of a true leader and advocate for education, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award.

Sincerely,



Mike Hyatt
Superintendent

PRISCILLA BENALLY

P. O. B O X 1 4 1 5 T H O R E A U N M 8 7 3 2 3

(5 0 5) 8 6 2 - 2 9 3 0 • E - M A I L A D D R E S S : pbenally@gmcs.org

Priscilla has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing education through her active involvement in school board activities. Her leadership and contributions extend beyond the local level, as she actively participates in district, state, and national board associations.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2012-Present Thoreau Community Center

P.O. Box 401 Thoreau NM 87323

Executive Director/Community Specialist

2000-2008 Baca/Dlo'ay'azhi Community School

P.O. Box 509 Prewitt, NM 87045

Educational Assistant & Health Assistant

Certified Driver License with Endorsements PS

CPR/First Aid Certification (expired)

EDUCATION

May, 1996 University of New Mexico-Gallup Branch-Gallup, NM

Certification in Nursing Assistant

May, 2005 University of New Mexico -Gallup Branch-Gallup, NM

Associate of Arts-Early Childhood Multicultural Education

2009-2012 University of New Mexico-Gallup Branch-Gallup, NM

Register Nurse Program

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Navajo Nation Board of Education-President

Gallup McKinley County Board of Education (Public school district)

NM School Board Association Region 1 President (Zuni, GMCS, CCSD,
Bloomfield, Farmington, Aztec, Dulce)

Member of the National School Board Association American Indian Alaska
Native Council of School Board members

National Johnson O'Malley Region 2 (State of New Mexico) Representative
Member of the Eastern Agency Crisis Response team
Baca/Dlo'ay'azhi School Board member (BIE school)

LANGUAGES

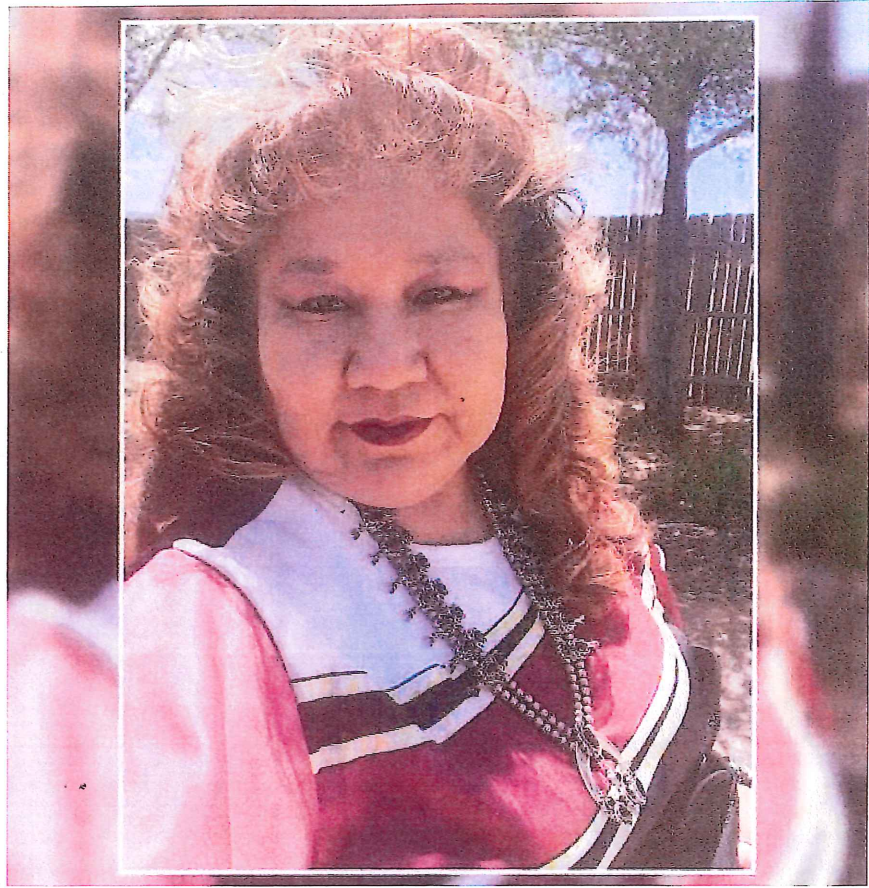
English and Navajo

REFERENCES

Edmund Yazzie Navajo Nation Council Delegate (505)399-1172

Barbra Swimmer-Jim Thoreau Community Center Board of Directors (505)
488-3892

Jaclyn Delgarito Thoreau Community Center Projector Director` (505)236-8443





Board Member of the Year

Criteria for Judging Award

- 1) Active in local, region, state and national school board activities.
- 2) Exemplary service provided to students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts.
- 3) Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.
- 4) Minimum of Level I – Leadership Achievement in the Leadership Development Program.
- 5) Other training attended.

Nomination Form

Board Member Name: **Mrs. Fran Dobey**

Please submit:

- 1) Letter of nomination outlining the board member's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria set forth
- 2) Brief resume of the board member
- 3) Photo of the board member
- 4) Any other supporting nomination letters or documents

Nominator Name: **Laci Phillips Newland AMSD Board Secretary**

(Can be a Board member, Superintendent or other)

School District: **Aztec Municipal School District**

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at lvigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

Deadline for Submission: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist

Dear Members of the New Mexico School Board Association,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Fran Dobey for the prestigious recognition of **School Board Member of the Year**. Fran's unwavering dedication to the students of Aztec, spanning 35 remarkable years, makes her a beacon of leadership, service, and commitment within our community.

Fran's journey is one of steadfast perseverance. She began her career in the custodial department, working tirelessly while pursuing her degree, eventually transitioning to the role of teacher, and now serving as our respected School Board President. Throughout her various roles, one thing has remained constant: Fran's "why" — her unshakeable belief that every decision must prioritize what is best for our students.

In moments of tension or challenge, our 2017 High School Shooting, the challenges of CoVid, and the threat of litigation, Fran's calm demeanor has been a guiding force. She exemplifies grace under pressure and leads with a quiet confidence that inspires those around her. Her thoughtful approach and keen ability to navigate difficult situations have earned her the respect of her colleagues, staff, and community members alike.

What sets Fran apart is her personal touch. Despite her busy schedule, she continues to deliver handwritten birthday cards to her former students, a gesture that speaks volumes about the depth of her care and connection to those she serves. She also takes the time to handwrite thank-you notes to every individual who attends our board meetings, a testament to her humility and gratitude for community involvement.

Fran's leadership, kindness, and dedication to the well-being of Aztec's children are unmatched. Her tireless work over the past three and a half decades has left an indelible mark on our district, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Thank you for considering Fran Dobey for School Board Member of the Year. Her legacy of service and leadership is truly deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,
Laci Phillips Newland
AMSD Board Secretary

I reached out to those who know Fran best and asked them all to honor her with a letter of recommendation. Below, you will find those letters. Again, thank you for consideration.

Fran Dobey's Timeline

- Fran started as a substitute cafeteria worker. Then was promoted to full time in the snack bar at Aztec High School in 1985.
- After the snack bar she worked as a custodian for one year at Lidia Rippey Elementary.
- Then, worked a year as a library aid still at Lydia Rippey, all while going to SJ college.
- She transferred to Fort Lewis College and completed her bachelor's degree in psychology and graduated Suma Cum Laude and became a third-grade teacher at Lidia Rippey Elementary for 9 years.
- Next, she transferred to Park Avenue in 2005 and became a 4th grade teacher
- During this time, she earned her master's degree at Adams State College in Alamosa Co. graduating Suma Cum Laude.
- In 2010 she took over the gifted program at Park Ave Elementary and retired to serve on the school board in 2016.

I would love to support the nomination for Fran Dobey as school board member of the year. I have known Fran for over 29 years, as a fellow educator. She has served in this community for much longer. She has been employed in many different positions in the Aztec Municipal School District. She has been a custodian, a cafeteria helper, taught 1st, 3rd, & 4th grade, special education, gifted students, alternative high school and more. Now, as a retired teacher, she has chosen to volunteer her time and continue to support the students, faculty and community by serving as a school board member and school board president. Because of her vast experience and education, she brings a great level of understanding to the school board member role. In every position, Mrs. Dobey serves with excellence. She goes the extra mile to help students and their families. Creative thinking and giving to others stand out as her specialties. She finds ways to give, help and support the students and families in the best ways possible. When problems present themselves, she strives to find the best solution for every person involved, in a calm and peaceful manner. As a board member, she desires to work as a team member to bring the best benefits for this community. She cherishes hearing the great achievements of the students in the district. She loves celebrating with students and educators in their accomplishments. Handing out the diplomas for high school graduation is a highlight in her life. She understands and is thrilled at the monumental achievement of the students. Many of Mrs. Dobey's students are still in contact with her, because she stays in touch and encourages them in their educational journey. Education and the empowerment education brings, is her passion. Mrs. Dobey truly deserves to be the school member of the year, because of the number of years she has served this community with education and love. I'm grateful to know her and to have had her as a role model in the education programs of Aztec Municipal Schools.

Sincerely,
Jana Crowley
Retired Teacher

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Fran Dobey for School Board Member of the Year. When I served on the board, she was the epitome of an ideal board member; Mrs. Dobey consistently demonstrates an unwavering passion for student learning and engagement. Her dedication is evident through her frequent visits to schools, where she immerses herself in the educational environment and fosters meaningful connections with both students and staff. Her thoughtful gestures, such as sending heartfelt cards of encouragement, further highlight her commitment to uplifting and motivating those around her. Moreover, Mrs. Dobey's quiet and calm leadership style creates a supportive and collaborative atmosphere, allowing for effective and respectful decision-making. Her blend of genuine care, proactive involvement, and serene guidance makes her an outstanding candidate for this honor.

Roger Collins
Previous AMSD Board President

To: BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR SELECTION COMMITTEE

I first met Fran Dobey about 40 years ago when we worked together at Lydia Rippey Elementary School. I was returning to my teaching career after a hiatus of being a stay-at-home mother. Fran was 20 years younger, was single, and had transitioned to LR from a job at Aztec High School.

Our school principal, Charline Gaston, loved children. Her priority was to hire people who would make the education and well-being of the students their main focus. She was a mentor and an educator who chose her staff based on the hidden potential she saw in each one. Fran was one of those people. Charline saw in her the potential to be a creative educator and a leader even before Fran became a college student.

Fran was hired to serve on the custodial staff. She went about her job with excellence and humility doing all that she could to make our school a quality place for students to learn. She worked hard, seeking to serve with excellence, working quietly and humbly every day. She never sought praise or recognition.

When the Library Aide position opened, Charline selected Fran to take over the helm of one of her most valued school resources—The School Library. Fran accepted the challenge and worked hard to learn all things she had to know to fill the position—Dewey Decimal System, cataloging, shelving books, decorating bulletin boards, selecting new books for purchase, a budget, scheduling, reading to children, classroom management, and working with staff to support classrooms with books. It was a huge challenge, and again Fran worked diligently and quietly with humility to learn and grow into all the new responsibilities.

It wasn't long before Charline encouraged Fran to think about going to college and getting a degree so she could become a classroom teacher. Fran knew it was her next step, and that was something she wanted to achieve. Armed with her strong desire, her high intelligence, and much encouragement from her mentor and friends and colleagues, she registered as a college student and achieved her goal.

After achieving her bachelor's degree in education, she came back to teach at Lydia Rippey. She taught pre-first and third grade during her tenure there. She had a fantastic way of problem solving the challenges students and their families were facing. She addressed not only

the educational needs in the classroom, but also invited parents to work with her so their child could be successful.

Fran also worked at Park Avenue School (grades 4-5) as the teacher of the gifted students. She inspired them to be creative and gave them a platform that was fun and challenging. Eventually she got the students involved Destination Imagination where they could compete as teams working together to achieve their goals and present critical thinking and problem-solving projects. This was by far one of her favorite times in her teaching career. While at Park Avenue she also started a Mentoring Program which provided students who needed extra one on one positive interaction within the school setting. She started with a few retired teacher volunteers including myself and a few others. It was a powerful program that helped students have someone there at school for them every week just to listen and do some activities they enjoy.

Through all these years, I have grown to love Fran as a dear friend and someone I highly respect. I remember when she married, Charles, her mentor, Charline, became her mother-in-love. She continued to honor Charline until she passed in 2023. I have watched their son Charles grow into manhood over the past 30 years. I have watched Fran deal with many challenges in her life with grace, faith, wisdom and strength. She is truly a wise woman and a Peaceful Problem Solver as she approaches things that she faces, especially now as she has served for many years on the Aztec Schools Board of Education.

Fran was serving in 2017 during the trauma of the AHS school shooting. She had such strength beyond herself during that time as we all prayed for comfort and peace in the community. She sought ways to make graduation a special time despite Covid restrictions, so she helped plan a parade for presentation of diplomas to each student as they drove through. She works each year to host a creative and special banquet for the honor grads. Fran delights in helping with the AMS Christmas parade entry which is so much fun for our community. She always finds ways to involve the children. She visits schools to watch programs and events and sends notes of encouragement to students and staff who have been honored in any way.

Through all these things, she has refused to give up when the challenges of the Board Presidency have seemed insurmountable. Fran takes time to thoughtfully research all information to make informed decisions as a leader. She seeks to always listen and understand and work with her fellow board members in order to make the schools in Aztec, NM the very best they can be, and provide excellence in education for every student.

I have walked through four decades and many seasons of life with Fran DobeY. She has been my co-worker, my friend and my steadfast support in times of my own personal times of trial. She is truly a woman who demonstrates love, generosity, peace, strength and all the qualities of a SERVANT LEADER.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination. I am so proud to HIGHLY AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMEND my fellow educator and friend, FRAN DOBEY.

Sincerely,

Iola Parks
1129 Graceland Dr.
Aztec, NM. 87410
505-330-5610

I first met Fran Dobey when she was a teacher, and she brought the Imagination Destination team to a Board Meeting to introduce them to the Aztec School Board. I knew her mother-in-law, Charline Gaston as the principal at Lydia Rippey Elementary School. I did not know much about Mrs. Dobey, so when I asked around, I found out that she started her career in education as a custodian, then earned her credentials to become a teacher and after her retirement, was elected to the Aztec Municipal School Board.

Mrs. Dobey is very caring for the staff and students of the Aztec Municipal School District, which makes her a great board member. She always thinks first about what is best for the kids. Mrs. Dobey tries her best to be involved in the schools by attending most of the activities that the Board is invited to attend. She does her best to show the Board's appreciation for all the hard work that the staff does for our students.

Jimmy Dusenbery
AMSD Vice President

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my admiration and appreciation for Fran Dobey, our esteemed Board President, whose dedication and passion for education have profoundly impacted our community.

Having had the privilege of working closely with Fran Dobey in her role as a teacher and now witnessing her leadership as Board President, I have consistently been impressed by her commitment to the betterment of our educational system. As a supervisor of her teaching, I observed firsthand her exceptional strength in the classroom. Mrs. Dobey's ability to inspire and empower students was truly remarkable, and she truly created a learning environment where students felt supported and were able to reach their fullest potential.

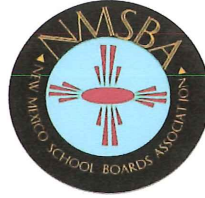
Mrs. Dobey's love for learning is infectious; she approaches every challenge with a curiosity and enthusiasm that is both inspiring and motivating. Her belief in the transformative power of education is evident in every decision she makes, always striving to seek what is best for our students. Mrs. Dobey's dedication goes beyond mere duty; it is a genuine passion that drives her advocacy for educational excellence and equity.

As Board President, Mrs. Dobey continues to exemplify these qualities, tirelessly advocating for policies and initiatives that enhance educational opportunities for all students. Her vision and leadership have been instrumental in shaping our community's educational landscape, ensuring that every student has access to a quality education.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Mrs. Dobey's contributions to our community, both as a teacher and as our Board President, are invaluable. Her leadership, dedication, and passion for education serve as an inspiration to us all, exemplified by her recent nomination for Board Member of the Year, a testament to her exceptional service and commitment.

Sincerely,
Lauren Laws
AMSD Interim Superintendent





Board Member of the Year

Criteria for Judging Award

- 1) Active in local, region, state and national school board activities.
- 2) Exemplary service provided to students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts.
- 3) Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.
- 4) Minimum of Level I – Leadership Achievement in the Leadership Development Program.
- 5) Other training attended.

Nomination Form

Board Member Name: **Dale Maes**

Please submit:

- 1) Letter of nomination outlining the board member's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria set forth
- 2) Brief resume of the board member
- 3) Photo of the board member
- 4) Any other supporting nomination letters or documents

Nominator Name: **Sue Finch**

(Can be a Board member, Superintendent or other)

School District: Bloomfield School District

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at lvigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

Deadline for Submission: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist

September 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with my great pleasure to recommends Dale Mase for New Mexico School Board Member of the year. I have known Dale Mase for less than one year, but in that year he has shown great leadership for a person that ran for a position on the Bloomfield School Board in 2023. In that one year from making the decision and then winning the election to being on the school board he has been a wonderful mentor for me. He has guided me thru the importance of going to the workshops and school board meetings and giving me the insights on how the board works. He has guided me through the need to attend the different conferences and encourage me to be educated as we make decisions for our Bloomfield District.

He has served on the board being elected in 2/3/2015, (Appt.6/11/13) his term expires in 2027. He has been President of the board for nine years. Times that he worked diligently with our superintendent Dr. Kim Mizell and all board members. He has led us to be educated as we looked and found a new superintendent for Bloomfield School District.

He is loved and respected by the students and parents of this district with his leadership skills and informing them of the direction that our Bloomfield District is taking.

He has worked diligently to develop policy to recruit and retain teachers in a time that New Mexico is looking and for quality teachers.

Dale is a listener and then seeks the answers for the public, and then goes to the correct resources to have educated answers to inform all that bring questions to him.

Please consider this nomination and recognized Mr. Maes as an outstanding board member of the year.

Sincerely,

Sue Finch

Bloomfield School Board Member



Bloomfield Schools

September 11th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Dale Maes for New Mexico Board Member of the year. I have known Mr. Maes for many years and have served with him on the Bloomfield School Board for the past seven years.

Mr. Maes is a man of integrity who always strives to make well informed decisions on the behalf of the students and employees of Bloomfield Schools. Since I have been working with Mr. Maes, I have been impressed with the priorities he has set as the school board president.

Mr. Maes believes that the safety of all Bloomfield employees is important and took the steps to secure all schools after a school shooting in our area in 2017. Mr. Maes also is very interested in student achievement. He trusts the people working in the district to make the best instructional and educational decisions for all students and provides them with the support they need to raise student achievement to the next level. Mr. Maes also has worked hard over the past several years to develop policies to help recruit and retain teachers in the district. He knows that teacher retention is one of the keys to Bloomfield Schools' success.

Mr. Maes is a business owner in Bloomfield and is very supportive of activities that take place in the district. He often donates his time and resources to help schools in terms of sponsorships and donations. I believe Mr. Maes is very deserving of this honor.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Tony DeHerrera
Bloomfield Schools
Board of Education, Vice President
505-215-8625**

September 10, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to nominate Dale Maes the Bloomfield School Board President as the School Board Member of the Year. Mr. Maes has served the district for over ten years. His unwavering and exemplary commitment to the students, staff and community is well documented. He has been present for every board meeting except one that I can recall.

Mr. Maes works well with others and is very collaborative when it comes to decisions. As the former Superintendent for nine years our relationship resulted in not one single "no vote" during board meetings. Through Mr. Maes leadership we made sure that all board members were well informed, and the board members questions were always answered with full transparency in mind.

Mr. Maes is very dependable and consistent in attending most school board trainings provided by New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA). He participates and contributes to the learning process. He is very thoughtful and responsive to the needs of the district. Through his support we were able to turn the district around from having failing schools to all school meeting expectations and being recognized by the New Mexico Department of Public Education (NMPED) as "Traditional." I consider this to be a significant accomplishment.

During the most challenging time during the pandemic Mr. Maes and I were both put in very volatile situations involving NMPED safety regulations and the community protest in the board room. He had lost his own mother to COVID, and he was faced with an angry crowd wanting to stop all the regulatory rules of mask wearing. Mr. Maes managed the situation with grace and kindness. To this day I will always admire the man who addressed an angry crowd so well.

Please consider this nomination and recognized Mr. Maes as an outstanding community leader.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kimberly Mizell, PhD.

Former Superintendent of Bloomfield School District

September 16, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

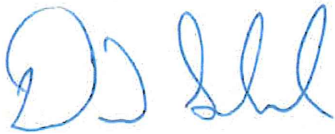
It is with great honor to nominate Dale Maes as School Board Member of the year. Mr. Maes is currently the Bloomfield School President, which have served for 2 terms and renewed for his 3rd. Overall, through my term I have yet to see him miss a school board meeting nor any other special school events. Maes has dedicated his time and effort to ensure success throughout Bloomfield district, community, and staff.

Mr. Maes is a successful business owner in the city of Bloomfield. Here at his work, he allows all opportunities for the public to reach out and communicate. He holds high respect and leadership amongst the town and neighboring communities. Mr. Maes was chosen as Bloomfield citizen of the year in 2018 and best business of the year 2016.

Overall, I have the up most respect for Dale Maes. I appreciate all the volunteering and effective management he has done for this community. He has an open and cheerful heart, that allows you to feel heard and appreciated. These are the qualities we ask for in a great individual and leader.

I am proud to submit this nomination and recognize Mr. Maes as an outstanding community leader.

Sincerely,



David Salcido

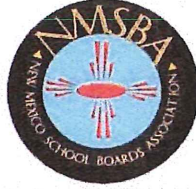
Bloomfield School Board- Secretary

NMSBA Board Member of the Year - Nominee

Dale Maes – Bloomfield Schools

Dale has served on the Bloomfield Schools Board of Education for 14 years. He was appointed a Board Member in 2011 and elected as Board President in 2015. He has held the position of Board President since 2015. Dale is a Bloomfield NM business owner, he opened DJ's Pizza as a teenager. He was recognized as the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year in 2016. Dale has served the Community for many years through his business, as President of the Bloomfield School Board of Education and as a volunteer coach.





Board Member of the Year

Criteria for Judging Award

- 1) Active in local, region, state and national school board activities.
- 2) Exemplary service provided to students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts.
- 3) Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.
- 4) Minimum of Level I – Leadership Achievement in the Leadership Development Program.
- 5) Other training attended.

Nomination Form

Board Member Name: Inez Rodriguez

Please submit:

- 1) Letter of nomination outlining the board member's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria set forth
- 2) Brief resume of the board member
- 3) Photo of the board member
- 4) Any other supporting nomination letters or documents

Nominator Name: Pauline Jaramillo
(Can be a Board member, Superintendent or other)

School District: Socorro Consolidated School

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at vigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

Deadline for Submission: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist

Inez Rodriguez

In 2000 Inez Rodriguez was appointed to Portales School Board.

Inez's goal was to ensure that all students would become successful.

Citizens, creating that all students would receive the quality of life that our leadership development would encourage students to be prepared for a quality of life and help improve our society.

Inez supports NMSBA as our leading advocate for our Local Boards in insuring these goals.

Inez's leadership and involvement in the NMSBA Board of Director's has instilled much passion in taking information to her Region, so they can receive current and changing information, she has served as President, Vice President for Region V for 21 years, giving her the privilege of service in committees such as the resolution, the personnel committee with dignity and pride.

Inez is a Master Board Member and very proud to be.

Inez has received Exemplary awards every year of her service. Inez has maintained her mandatory Training requirements.

Inez is proud to serve as a board member and service to the Education of our students.

She is definitely New Mexico Public School.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Jaramillo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pauline Jaramillo

Inez Rodriguez
Portales, New Mexico
rodriguezinez@msn.com

Professional Summary:

- . 26 Years in Education Experience**
- . 24 Years on Board of Education**

Portales, New Mexico

- . 21 Years on NMSBA Board Of Directors**
- . 2 Years Experience on the REPSAC Program**
- . 20 Years Experience on EPCAA Board of Directors overlooking Organizational Impact on Early and Regular HeadStart Program.**

My achievement and impact have allowed me to be able to contribute effectively in my position on all these Boards. I seek to leverage my practical experience.

Work Experience:

- . 1969-1972 I worked as a Vista Volunteer**
I worked in the community and collaborated programs to help with their resources available helping them to become self sufficient for their needs.
- . 1972-1974 I worked for the REPSAC Program in Portales and going into homes and collaborating with parents on what was being taught to their 4 year students.**
- . 1974-2000 I was a Manager for the Kmart Corporation in the soft line division.**

Trained 15 employees on daily operation of a 2 million dollar operation
was in charge of the financial bookkeeping, and waste control responsibility.
customer service strategies and increasing profits.

Volunteer Experience:

. 24 years to School Board

21 years to Resolution and personnel committee

24 years of exemplary awards

Master Board Member

21 years to EPCAA BOARD

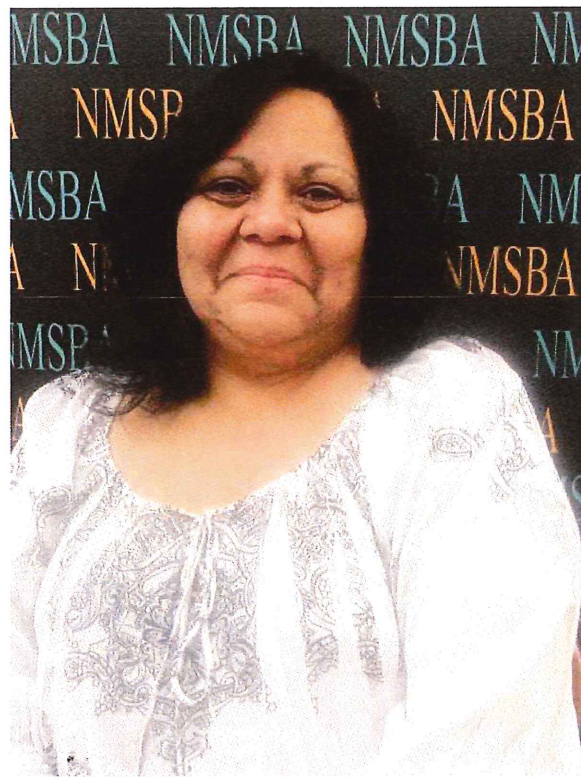
5 Years to ST. Vincent De Paul Society

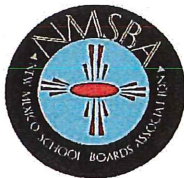
many years to church Ministry

I have assisted in planning and executing events for organizations.

References:

available upon request.





Board of Education of the Year

Criteria for Judging Award

- 1) Active in local, region, state and national school board activities.
- 2) Exemplary service provided to students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts.
- 3) Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.
- 4) Involvement in training (example: Far exceeds the state mandated minimum of 5 hours per training year).

Nomination Form

School Board Nominated: Mesa Vista Consolidated School District

Please check that you have submitted:

- 1) Letter of nomination outlining the board's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria set forth
- 2) Brief resume of each board member
- 3) Photo of the board
- 4) Any other supporting documents

Nominator Name: Felix Garcia, Superintendent of Mesa Vista Schools
(Can be a Board member, Superintendent or other)

School District: Mesa Vista School District

Category: Large District (Enrollment greater than 1,000)
 Small District (Enrollment less than 1,000)

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at lvigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist

SUPERINTENDENT

Felix Garcia

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Moises Pena - President
Anthony X Vigil - Vice-President
Marvyn Jaramillo - Secretary
Daniella Gallegos - Member
Edwin J Gurule - Member

MESA VISTA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

District No. 6
P.O. Box 309
Ojo Caliente, NM 87549

Telephone: (505) 583-2645
Fax No.: (505) 583-2815
mesavistacsds.com



Mr. Joe Guillen
Executive Director
New Mexico School Board Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Guillen,

I am writing to nominate the Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools' School Board for the prestigious "School Board of the Year" award. It is with great pleasure and immense admiration that I present this nomination, as the accomplishments of the Mesa Vista School Board over the past year have been nothing short of exceptional.

The Mesa Vista School Board has demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to the betterment of our educational community through a series of outstanding accomplishments:

1. **Facilitated a Balanced Budget with a Surplus:** Despite the financial challenges faced by many school districts, the Mesa Vista School Board exhibited remarkable fiscal responsibility by not only balancing the budget but also generating a surplus. Their prudent financial management has allowed for the allocation of additional resources to support our students' educational needs.
2. **Selected a Visionary Leader:** The School Board's dedication to the educational mission of Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools was further exemplified by their choice of a visionary leader to helm our district. This leader's strategic vision and commitment to academic excellence have already begun to yield positive results.
3. **Improved Academic Achievement:** Through their unwavering commitment to educational excellence, the School Board has overseen initiatives and policies that have led to significant improvements in academic achievement across all grade levels. Our students are thriving academically, thanks to their dedication.
4. **100% Teacher Retention Rate:** Perhaps one of the most impressive achievements of the Mesa Vista School Board is the remarkable 100% teacher retention rate. This speaks volumes about the positive working environment and support provided to our educators, ultimately benefiting our students.

The Mesa Vista School Board's accomplishments serve as an example of leadership, vision, and commitment to our community through education. Their achievements have not only made an impact on our schools but have also inspired our community.

I endorse the Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools' School Board for the "School Board of the Year" award, and I believe that their dedication and accomplishments make them deserving recipients of this honor.

Thank you for considering this nomination, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information or supporting materials.

Sincerely,


Felix Garcia

Superintendent, Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools

Meet the Board of Education



Moises Peña

Board President

Email: moises.pena@mesavista.org

Moises Peña graduated from Mesa Vista High School in 1997. He is a proud member of the 1997 AA State Basketball Championship team. After graduation, he attended Northern New Mexico College where he concentrated on basic studies.

In January of 1999, Mr. Peña found his calling in public service. He began his career as a public servant working at the Española City Jail. When he reached 21 years of age, he began his career as a police officer. Mr. Peña served as a patrol officer for approximately four years until he reached the rank of detective with the Española Police Department, where he served for approximately 10 years. Mr. Peña has since been employed as a supervisor at the Rio Arriba County Detention Center. He is currently a proud Deputy of the Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Peña was elected in February of 2017 to the Mesa Vista Consolidated School Board of Education where he currently serves as School Board Secretary.

Moises has a vision of the Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools soon becoming the mecca of public education. His vision is that all students are either prepared to excel in advanced learning institutions, technical schools or striving to become productive members of society in today's workforce.



Anthony X. Vigil

Vice President

Email: anthony.xvigil@mesavista.org

Anthony Vigil is a resident of El Rito, New Mexico. He graduated from Mesa Vista High School in 2019 and is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at the University of New Mexico. Additionally, Anthony is an intern with the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Engineering Services Division.

Before joining LANL, he served as an intern Medical Assistant at Las Clinicas del Norte, a non-profit health center which serves the local community. In high school, he led several student organizations and was a runner for the 2015 and 2016 cross country state championship teams. In 2019, he was part of the state championship medley relay team for track and field.

He was elected to the Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools' Board of Education on November 5, 2019. Anthony ran for the school board to give the students, who are his contemporaries, a voice. He knows that since students are directly impacted by district shortfalls, they may be able to offer valuable outside-the-box solutions. Anthony recognizes that each student has a unique personality as well as a unique set of strengths and goals which compelled him to help students graduate with the tools they need to pursue higher education or to undertake technical and trade skills.

Anthony takes heart from the words of Mark Twain: "The secret of getting ahead is getting started."



Marvyn Jaramillo

Secretary

[Email Marvyn Jaramillo](mailto:Marvyn.Jaramillo@nmsba.org)

Contact Phone: (505) 583-0070

With a wealth of experience, I have served as a member of the Mesa Vista Board of Education, currently in my 4th term. First elected in 2009, I have held various leadership positions, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, and local board member, demonstrating my ability to lead effectively and make a positive impact.

At the regional level, I have served as President of NMSBA's Region II and member of the Board of Directors for several years. At the state level, I was elected as the Association's Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President, President-Elect, President, and Past-President. I also served and chaired NMSBA's Executive, Resolutions, and Nominating Committees and was on the Board of directors for NMAA. I am currently the Vice-President of the NMSBA.

At the national level, I served several times as a delegate to the National Delegate Assembly and Western Region Conference. I was elected to the Board of Directors (Central Region) for NSBA. I currently serve on the NSBA Beliefs and Resolutions Committee and NSBA awards Committee.

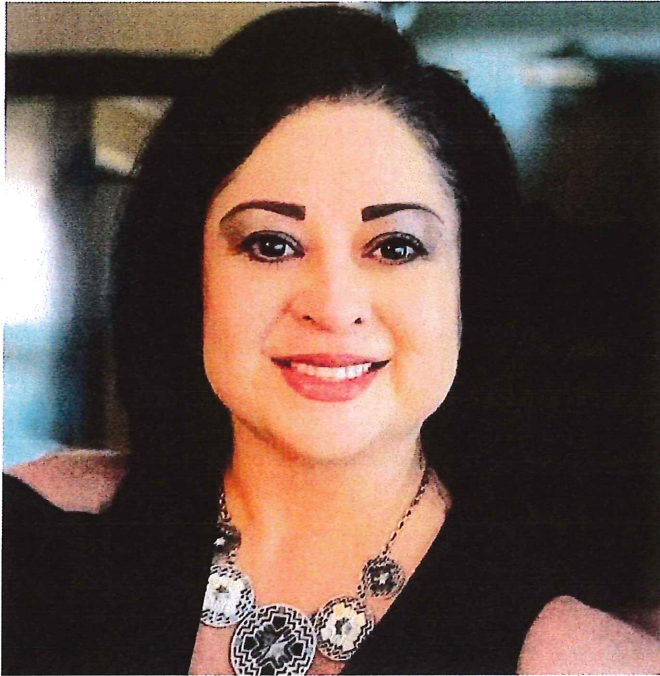
I have received Outstanding Leadership, Leadership Development, and Exemplary Training Awards. In 2020, I received the Outstanding Board Member of the Year Award. In 2021, I received Master Board Member Certification and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2022 NMSBA Annual Convention. In addition, my local Board (Mesa Vista) received Board of the Year in 2022.

In July 2021, I retired from the New Mexico National Guard as Sergeant First Class (E-7) after serving 26 years. In June 2022, I retired from Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office in the rank of Sergeant after serving 23 years in law enforcement.

I have been and continue to be a passionate advocate for students, striving to move our school district forward.

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." -Unknown

Marvyn Jaramillo



Daniella Gallegos

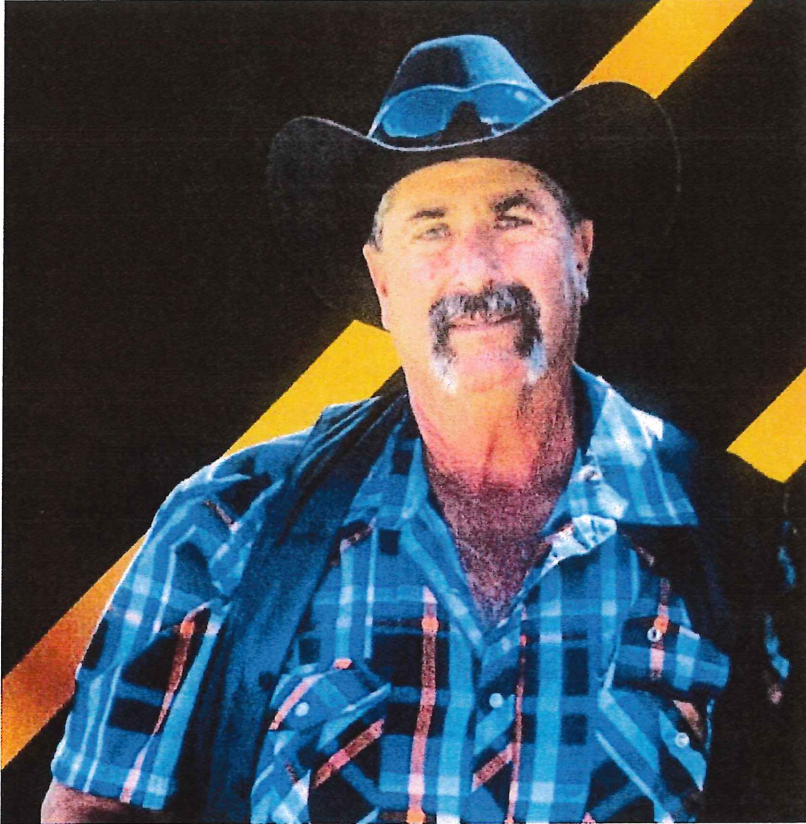
Board Member

Email: daniella.gallegos@mesavista.org

Daniella Gallegos, is a resident of El Rito, New Mexico. She is the daughter of Porfiria Jaramillo and the late, Gus Jaramillo. She is married to Richard Gallegos, has two children, Jason and Brittany Gallegos, and 4 grandchildren, Ajaya, Jerikah and Jayden Gallegos and Kain Mercure. Daniella graduated from Mesa Vista High School in 1989. After high school, she attended Northern New Mexico Community College and received her Associates of Science as an Administrative Assistant. Daniella retired from Los Alamos County in 2017, working in various departments to include, Parks and Recreation, Finance, Utilities and Municipal Court and gained great knowledge on how county government operates. Daniella now works as a Document Control Specialist for the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Radiation Protection program.

Daniella was elected to the Mesa Vista Consolidated School District Board of Education in November of 2023.

Daniella recognizes the diverse learning styles of children and is committed to ensuring each student receives the appropriate tools and support for success. She wants to contribute to the school district's growth and make it a place where students feel motivated to learn and grow. Daniella believes that her ethical and compassionate characteristics will positively serve the students and communities of the Mesa Vista School District.

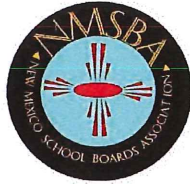


Edwin J. Gurule

Board Member

Email: edwin.gurule@mesavista.org

Mr. Edwin J Gurule was born and raised in Ojo Caliente and Tres Pierdas, New Mexico. Mr. Gurule graduated from Mesa High School in 1975. Mr. Gurule has a daughter who currently attends Mesa Vista High School. He has been a rancher his entire life and was a dedicated and well liked bus driver for over 40 years. Mr. Gurule's mission is still transparency, have a safe learning environment for kids and employees and also to listen to the students, parents, and employee's concerns.



Board of Education of the Year

Criteria for Judging Award

- 1) Active in local, region, state and national school board activities.
- 2) Exemplary service provided to students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school districts.
- 3) Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.
- 4) Involvement in training (example: Far exceeds the state mandated minimum of 5 hours per training year).

Nomination Form

School Board Nominated: West Las Vegas Board of Education

Please check that you have submitted:

- 1) Letter of nomination outlining the board's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria set forth
- 2) Brief resume of each board member
- 3) Photo of the board
- 4) Any other supporting documents

Nominator Name: Christopher Gutierrez
(Can be a Board member, Superintendent or other)

School District: West Las Vegas Schools

Category: Large District (Enrollment greater than 1,000)
 Small District (Enrollment less than 1,000)

Submit your nomination package via email to Lorraine Vigil, NMSBA Program Director at lvigil@nmsba.org or mail to:

New Mexico School Boards Association
300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Fax (505) 983-2450

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday, September 20, 2024

*See next page for checklist

September 20, 2024

Mr. Joe Guillen, Executive Director
NM School Boards Association
300 Don Gaspar, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Letter of Nomination in Consideration of West Las Vegas Board of Education as "Board of Education of the Year"

Dear Mr. Guillen:

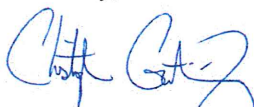
It is with great pleasure that I nominate the West Las Vegas School Board of Education for consideration as "Board of Education of the Year." Local school districts are considered fortunate to have individuals who serve their communities as board members with sincerity and in the best interest of students. I can attest that the individuals currently serving on the West Las Vegas Board of Education create a synergy that positively impacts student outcomes and all district undertakings.

The West Las Vegas School Board of Education continues to demonstrate its commitment to excellence, and I am honored to serve our "Dons" and "Lady Dons" with such a fine group of individuals. The manner in which the Board conducts the public's business is a credit to the students, parents, community, and NMSBA. Their board meetings are conducted in a very professional and welcoming manner and are a demonstration of democratic principles. While it is impossible for members to always agree with one another, they do not allow their personal differences to impede their ability to work together and achieve the best outcomes for the students, staff, and community in general.

Furthermore, in this day and age, it is nearly impossible for a board to say it has worked collaboratively with the same superintendent for numerous years, and I am proud to say that the Board has afforded me the opportunity to serve in the role of Superintendent of Schools for eight years. This in and of itself demonstrates the Board's commitment to consistency and dedication to progress. Each board member has extensive experience in serving the public in various capacities, but their role as a functional board has made it possible for them to implement practices that have served to make West Las Vegas Schools a fine example of financial accountability and transparency.

I truly believe that the West Las Vegas Board of Education merits the distinction of NMSBA "Board of Education of the Year," and in my eyes this title has already been gained by the individuals who humbly, but proudly, serve the West Las Vegas community as West Las Vegas Board of Education. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Christopher Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools

Board
of
Education

President
Rolando Medrano Jr.

Vice-President
Linda Montoya

Secretary
Christine Ludi

Member
Christopher Lopez

Member
Gabriel Salazar

1. Active in local, regional, state, and national school board activities:

- All Board members attend local Board of Education meetings on a regular basis, with meetings rescheduled at times to ensure everyone's attendance.
- President Rolando Medrano Jr. serves on the WLVS Board of Education Audit Committee and Head Start Policy Council.
- Vice-President Linda Montoya serves on the WLVS Board of Education Finance Committee and is the NMSBA Region III President as well as a member of the NMSBA Board of Directors.
- Secretary Christine Ludi is a Master Board Member and currently serves as NMSBA Executive Board President, West Las Vegas Finance Committee Member, and Rio Gallinas Charter School Governing Council Representative. She also serves on NMSBA's Executive, Resolutions, and Nominating Committees; National Delegate Assembly; and Western Region Conference.
- Member Christopher Lopez serves on the WLVS Board of Education Audit Committee.
- Member Gabriel Salazar serves on the WLVS Board of Education Audit Committee.

2. Exemplary service provided to students, students, staff, parents, or patrons of the district:

- Medrano Jr. is a Real Estate Appraiser and Septic Specialist, proudly serving Las Vegas and surrounding communities. He is also actively involved with the district's wrestling teams.
- Montoya is a former educator who actively lobbies for student and staff on a local and national political level.
- Ludi actively lobbies for student and staff on a local and national political level.
- Lopez serves as the San Miguel County Sheriff and is a volunteer coach for the WLVS Junior Wrestling team.
- Salazar owns EarthTones Construction, proudly serving Las Vegas and surrounding communities. He is a volunteer coach for the WLVS Junior Wrestling team.
- All play an active role at annual district parades, food drives/distributions, student and staff acknowledgement barbecues/awards ceremonies, and school-site functions. Board meetings regularly include student participation through school-site presentations.

3. Significant accomplishments that have had a positive impact on the school district.

The current West Las Vegas School Board of Education is a highly functioning group, with each member conducting school business in a manner that reflects well on the school district, students, parents, and community, allowing differences of opinion to be heard while demonstrating respect towards others. In addition to their accomplishments related to leadership and professionalism, the Board has achieved a very high level of accountability and transparency in managing the district's finances. This has been accomplished in part through the continuation of highly functioning district audit and finance committees. The Finance Committee convenes monthly, and members review all expenditures before they are presented for board approval. Through the initiatives of the members of this committee, school district expenditures are closely monitored for appropriateness and to ensure student needs are met on a timely basis. The Audit Committee is actively involved with the district's auditors during audit season, taking seriously all areas of concern.

West Las Vegas School Board members have implemented systems that have helped make the district much more accountable in the utilization of public funds, and the level of transparency that is now in

place should be viewed as an example for other district officials who desire to become more accountable to the taxpayers. This Board has also followed through on the commitments made by prior WLVS school board of education members relative to capital projects, ensuring the local bond and SB-9 proceeds are spent appropriately.

4. Involvement in training:

The West Las Vegas Board has demonstrated its commitment to professional development by actively participating in various training activities, particularly through opportunities provided by NMSBA and PED. The following table provides each member's accumulated training hours for the 2023-24 training year:

Board Member	2023-24 Training Hours
Rolando Medrano Jr.	26
Linda Montoya	38
Christine Ludi	43
Christopher Lopez	36
Gabriel Salazar	35

INDIVIDUAL BRIEF RESUMES

President Roland Medrano Jr.

Hello. My name is Roland Medrano Jr, I am 45 years old. I am a native of Las Vegas, NM. I graduated from West Las Vegas schools in 1997. I went on to seek higher education at Luna Community College then transferring to New Mexico State University where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 2004. I have two children, my daughter Santianna Medrano who graduated from West Las Vegas in 2020 and my son Santiago Medrano who is currently a 9th grader at West Las Vegas high school. I currently am self employed as a real estate appraiser & septic specialist in the community. I have been a board member for West Las Vegas going on five years, in those five years I have held the positions of member, secretary, & chairman. My focus as a board member has always been to provide a safe and good learning environment for the kids of the district. While on the board I strive to create unity and pride among the board and district.

Vice-President Linda Montoya

Linda M Montoya, raised in Las Vegas, NM, is a graduate of West Las Vegas High School. She attended New Mexico Highlands University where she earned her BA in Elementary Education and History, and a MA in Guidance and Counseling. She began her 36-year career as an educator as an elementary teacher with the Mora Independent Schools. For the next 34 years she worked for the West Las Vegas Schools District in various capacities: an elementary reading teacher, a middle school English teacher, an English teacher at the high school, and finally a High School Counselor. For 25 of those years, she also coached: cheerleaders, dance team, and the flag team. Linda retired in 2013. Still wanting to stay involved, she ran for the West Las Vegas School Board in 2017 and won. She has been serving on the board for 7 ½ years now. Currently she is the Vice-President of her local board, the President of Region III, and serves as a member of the NMSBA Board of Directors.

Secretary Christine Ludi

Christine graduated from West Las Vegas in 1975 after graduation Christine traveled with her husband Gary while he was in the military. Christine retired from State Employees Credit Union in 2019 after 22 years of Service as Assistant Vice-President. Christine is very dedicated not only to her students of her district but also to every student in New Mexico.

Christine is currently on her fifth term (19 years) with the West Las Vegas, School District. Christine has served her district in the following positions: Chairwoman, Vice President and Secretary, she has also served the district on the finance committee, Audit committee, Liaison for Rio Gallinas Charter School, and Liaison to the West Las Vegas Head Start. Christine is currently the President of the New Mexico School Board Association where she has also held the positions of President Elect, Vic-President and Secretary. Christine has held the office of Region III President as well as NMSBA's Board of Directors. Christine serves on NMSBA's Executive, Resolutions and Nominating Committees. At the National level, Christine has served three terms as a delegate to the National Delegate Assembly and Western Region Conference. Christine has received the Outstanding Leadership, Leadership Development, and Exemplary Training Awards. In 2021 Christine received her Master Board Member Certification.

Member Christopher Lopez

Committed to his community and dedicated to progress, Chris is serving his first term as a West Las Vegas School Board Member. He is also currently serving as the San Miguel County Sheriff in his second term. He

is a proud Alumni of West Las Vegas and New Mexico Highlands University. His goals are to provide better conditions and more resources not only for our students but throughout the community.

Member Gabriel Salazar

My name is Gabriel Salazar. I am a lifelong resident of Las Vegas, New Mexico. I am honored to have recently been elected as a board member to the West Las Vegas School Board. My greatest treasures are my two daughters, Davah and Raylee, who are both students at West Las Vegas.

In addition to my role on the school board, I am the proud owner of EarthTones Construction, LLC, a local business that I have nurtured with passion and dedication. When I am not working or attending school board matters, I enjoy horseback riding, boating and spending quality time with my family.

I also volunteer as a coach for the WLV Junior Wrestling team, where I strive to mentor and support young athletes. I am deeply committed to being an advocate for every child in our community, with hope of providing greater opportunities for their future. I hope to continue to move forward with my fellow board member to enhance the educational experience for all our students.



West Las Vegas Board of Education: (l to r): Member Gabriel Salazar, Vice-President Linda Montoya, President Rolando Medrano Jr., Member Christopher Lopez, and Secretary Christine Ludi.