



IASB District Director Statement of Candidacy

Candidates for the position of District Director of the Iowa Association of School Boards should possess, at a minimum, the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated leadership and involvement on a local board of education.
- Demonstrated participation in IASB activities.
- Strong supporter of public education in Iowa.

Please supply information requested in all categories and return to:

Stephanie Rousseau, Executive Assistant, Iowa Association of School Boards, 6000 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312-1417 or by email at srousseau@ia-sb.org.

-- Must be in IASB office no later than Wednesday, October 28, 2026 --

-- Submissions not to exceed 3 pages --

Type your answers in the blue boxes. Each cell will expand as needed to accommodate longer responses.

Name:	Ruthina A Malone
Address (Home):	2638 Catskill Court, Iowa City, IA 52245
Address (Office):	Ulwa, 340 Iowa Ave-G60 PBSB, Iowa City, IA 52242
Telephone (Cell):	319-621-3821
Telephone (Work):	319-335-2407
Email:	ruthina.malone@iowacityschools.org
Occupation:	Department Administrator
School Board(s):	Iowa City Community School District
Years Service as Board Member:	9
Present Term of Office Expires:	2029

School Board Activities (Local Level):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President 9/22-Present• Vice President 7/20-9/22• Committee Chair, Policy and Governance 9/2017-7/2020
School Board Activities (State Level, including IASB Activities):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IASB Delegate 2017, 2023, 2024, 2025• IASB Annual Convention Presenter 2023, 2024, 2025• Appointed District 6 Director as of 03/2025• IASB Day on the Hill, 2026
School Board Activities (National Level):
N/A

Special Interests, Activities and Recognition:

- Building board relationships in order to focus on the work at hand
- Annual visits to our local schools.
- Building good working relationships between board members and superintendent
- Individual Achievement Award 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026
- 2021 Corridor Business Journal Woman of Influence
- 2021 UI David J. Skorton Staff Excellence Award for Public Service
- Endorsed by our local teacher's union in 201, 2021, and 2025. In 2025, also earned the "Educators Choice" distinction for my service and advocacy.

Other Comments Including Personal Qualifications for IASB Leadership:

Wherever my journey takes me, I strive to leave the path better than I found it and create opportunities for those who follow. I believe public education is one of the greatest investments we can make in our students, our communities, and the future of Iowa. Especially during challenging times, we need leaders who are willing to champion public education, share its successes, and advocate relentlessly for the students and educators who depend on it every day.

As a leader, my goal is to inspire others to join this mission while fostering a culture of continuous improvement, collaboration, and resilience. Leadership is not simply about making decisions; it is about listening, building relationships, and empowering others to contribute to our shared vision for student success.

Over the past 9 years, I have proudly served alongside fellow board members to strengthen relationships with our teachers, staff, students, and families. I have made it a priority to spend time in our classrooms, not only when challenges arise, but to see firsthand how board decisions impact teaching and learning. These experiences have reinforced the importance of thoughtful governance that remains connected to the realities of our schools.

I have been a strong advocate for educational equity, helping lead efforts to revise student discipline protocols through a dedicated task force to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all students, particularly those from historically marginalized groups. I have also supported initiatives to strengthen special education services, helping ensure students receive the support they need to thrive in inclusive learning environments and reach their individual goals.

Recognizing that strong schools require diverse perspectives, I have championed workforce diversity and inclusivity as guiding principles in our district's work. I am particularly proud of leading efforts to increase cultural representation in our school calendars, working directly with students to elevate their voices and ensure our practices reflect and respect the communities we serve.

Student safety has also remained a priority throughout my service. I advocated for annual participation in the BE SMART campaign to provide families with important gun safety education and resources. I also worked closely with parents, staff, and district leaders to address safety concerns during the November election cycles, successfully advocating for a professional development day that prioritized student safety while ensuring staff time was used productively.

As a District Director, I will continue to be a passionate advocate for public education, a collaborative voice for local school boards, and a leader committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed. Together, we can strengthen Iowa's public schools and preserve their vital role in shaping the future of our state.

Please comment on your willingness and availability to serve as IASB AEA Director:

If elected as one of the two District 6 Directors, I am fully committed to serving the board leadership and superintendents of all 50 school districts within our region. I view this role as both a responsibility and an opportunity to ensure that every district has a strong advocate, trusted resource, and responsive connection to the Iowa Association of School Boards.

I believe District Directors play a critical role in strengthening the relationship between local school boards and IASB. I am committed to being accessible, approachable, and engaged with district leaders across District 6. By fostering open and transparent communication, actively listening to concerns and ideas, and providing regular updates on IASB initiatives and priorities, I will work to ensure that every district's voice is heard and represented.

My availability and commitment extend beyond attendance at required meetings. I am prepared to invest the time necessary to build relationships, participate in district events and discussions when possible, and serve as a dependable resource for board members and superintendents seeking guidance, support, or advocacy.

As a longtime school board member, I understand both the challenges and opportunities facing Iowa's public schools. I will bring that experience to the role by sharing best practices, supporting collaborative problem-solving, and helping districts learn from one another's successes. Just as importantly, I will serve as a direct link to the IASB Board and staff, ensuring the unique perspectives and needs of District 6 are communicated and considered at the state level.

I am passionate about public education and committed to maintaining District 6's strong engagement with IASB. I will work to celebrate the accomplishments of our districts, elevate innovative practices, and advocate for policies that support students, educators, and communities across Iowa.

Through strong communication, collaborative leadership, and a genuine commitment to service, I will strive to ensure that every district in District 6 feels supported, connected, and empowered to contribute to the continued success of Iowa's public schools.

Please explain your philosophy of what you believe the role of IASB should be to assist Iowa school boards and strengthen public education:

I believe the Iowa Association of School Boards serves as both a guiding light and a trusted partner for school boards across our state. At its core, IASB exists to educate, support, and empower local boards so they can govern effectively and create the conditions for student success. Through leadership development, advocacy, policy guidance, and professional learning opportunities, IASB helps school boards navigate complex challenges while remaining focused on providing high-quality, equitable educational opportunities for every Iowa student.

A strong IASB equips board members with the knowledge, resources, and support needed to lead with confidence and accountability. Whether through governance training, board development, financial stewardship resources, or opportunities to learn from one another, IASB plays a critical role in helping local boards fulfill their responsibilities and strengthen outcomes for students and communities.

I also believe IASB must continue to be the leading voice for public education in Iowa. Local school boards need a respected and effective partner that builds relationships with policymakers, provides timely legislative insight, and empowers board members to advocate for their districts. By connecting

local leaders with elected officials and elevating the stories, challenges, and successes of Iowa schools, IASB ensures that the voices of students, educators, families, and communities are heard where important decisions are made.

Equally important is IASB's role in fostering engagement and collaboration among school leaders. Strong public schools depend on strong governance, and strong governance depends on informed, connected, and supported board members. IASB should continue expanding opportunities for members to share best practices, learn from one another, and build relationships that strengthen public education across the state.

The IASB I have experienced and hope to help lead is an organization that serves with integrity, innovation, accountability, and a steadfast commitment to public education. When IASB empowers local leaders, champions effective governance, and boldly advocates for Iowa's students, it strengthens not only individual school districts but the entire public education system.