

Ohio School Boards Association

8050 North High Street • Suite 100 • Columbus OH 43235-6481
(614) 540-4000 • fax (614) 540-4100
www.ohioschoolboards.org

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For more information, contact:

Crystal Davis

deputy director of

communication services

(614) 540-4000

cdavis@ohioschoolboards.org

Northeast Ohio school board member nominated as OSBA president-elect

COLUMBUS — John W. Halkias was recently selected as the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) 2018 president-elect nominee. If elected during OSBA's statewide conference in November, he will become OSBA president in 2019 following his term as president-elect.

Appointed in 1999 and then elected four times to the Plain Local Schools Board of Education in Stark County, Halkias has served as board president six times, including in 2003 when voters approved a bond issue for a new high school and 2009 when voters passed an operating levy.

He is the first Stark County school board member to be nominated as OSBA's president-elect.

Halkias serves on OSBA's Board of Trustees, Federal Relations Network and Rules Committee and previously served on the Executive Committee. He also is a member of OSBA's Northeast Region Executive Committee and was region president in 2015. In 2008, he was a member representative of Gov. Ted Strickland's Governor's Institute for Creativity and Innovation in Education.

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“Being a board of education member isn’t a job. It is every good board member’s passion,” Halkias said. “While we have recently seen deep divisions in our country, I have always been impressed that, despite our broad diversity, Ohio’s board of education members speak with one voice for education and the welfare of our schoolchildren. That is a lesson in unity that can be an example to our fellow Americans.”

With the help of the Stark County ESC and OSBA, Halkias established the first countywide meetings of board presidents. The North Canton resident also has served on numerous local boards, including the Stark County Urban League, Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates Stark County, and the Workforce Development Board of Stark-Tuscarawas County.

Halkias, the fund administrator for United Food and Commercial Workers’ Local 880 union-employer healthcare and pension funds, is an avid cyclist and runner, who completed his first half-marathon in April.

He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Akron, where he later earned his juris doctorate. He and his wife, Amy, are the parents of a son, Alex, and daughter, Sophia.

In its 62nd year, the Ohio School Boards Association leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

Note: A photo of Halkias is available for download at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/42708>.