



EDUCATION. ADVOCACY. SUPPORT.



So, You Want To Be a School Board Member?

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

— Agenda —

4:00 – 4:20 pm

**Time and Personal Commitment of Being a
Board Member**

*Presenter: Leonard Lockhart, Board Member, Windsor;
President, CABE*

4:20 – 4:40 pm

**Board Member Roles and Responsibilities
Leadership Opportunities for Board Members
Working with Other Board Members and Maximizing
Your Effectiveness as a Board Member**

*Presenter: Patrice McCarthy, Executive Director and
General Counsel, CABE*

4:40 – 5:00 pm

Issues Facing Public Education Today

*Presenters: Leonard Lockhart, Board Member, Windsor;
President, CABE
Patrice McCarthy, Executive Director and General
Counsel, CABE*

5:00 – 5:15 pm

Q&A Session



CABE's Mission Statement:

To assist local and regional boards of education in providing high quality
education for all
Connecticut children through effective leadership.

CABE Vision Statement:

CABE is passionate about strengthening public education through high-
performing, transformative
local school board/superintendent leadership teams that inspire success for
each child.



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2024-2025 CABE Board of Directors

Representing you from all corners of the state

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Nicholas D. Caruso (ext. 103) AssociateExecutive Director for Field Services and Technology	Gail Heath (ext. 111) Administrative Associate for Government Relations/Assistant to the Executive Director
Jody Goeler (ext. 109) Sr. Staff Associate for Policy Services	Wilmarie Newton (ext. 106) Adminsitrative Associate for Digital Communications
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Conrad Vahlsing (ext. 104) Deputy General Counsel	
Joanna Iannucci(ext. 102) Coordinator of Finance and Administration	
Pamela Brooks (ext. 110) Sr. Administrative Associate for Policy Services/Search Serv.	

CABE Areas

AREA 1	
Barkhamsted	Region 7
Canaan	Region 10
Colebrook	Region 14
Cornwall	Region 15
Hartland	Region 16
Kent	Region 20
Litchfield	Salisbury
Naugatuck	Sharon
New Hartford	Thomaston
Norfolk	Torrington
North Canaan	Waterbury
Oxford	Watertown
Plymouth	Winchester
Region 1	Wolcott
Region 6	
AREA 2	
Avon	Meriden
Berlin	New Britain
Bloomfield	Newington
Bristol	Plainville
Canton	Rocky Hill
East Granby	Simsbury
East Hartford	Southington
East Windsor	South Windsor
Enfield	Suffield
Farmington	West Hartford
Glastonbury	Wethersfield
Granby	Windsor
Hartford	Windsor Locks
Manchester	
AREA 3	
Ashford	Mansfield
Andover	Marlborough
Bolton	Region 8
Chaplin	Region 11
Colchester	Region 19
Columbia	Scotland
Coventry	Somers
Ellington	Stafford
Hampton	Tolland
Hebron	Vernon
Lebanon	Willington

AREA 4	
Brooklyn	Putnam
Canterbury	Sprague
Eastford	Sterling
Griswold	Thompson
Killingly	Union
Plainfield	Woodstock
Pomfret	

AREA 5	
Bethel	Newtown
Brookfield	Redding
Danbury	Region 9
Easton	Region 12
New Fairfield	Ridgefield
New Milford	Sherman

AREA 6	
Bridgeport	Shelton
Darien	Stamford
Fairfield	Stratford
Greenwich	Trumbull
Monroe	Weston
New Canaan	Westport
Norwalk	Wilton

AREA 7	
Ansonia	North Branford
Bethany	North Haven
Branford	Orange
Cheshire	Region 5
Derby	Seymour
East Haven	Wallingford
Hamden	West Haven
Milford	Woodbridge
New Haven	

AREA 8	
Chester	Middletown
Clinton	Old Saybrook
Cromwell	Portland
Deep River	Region 4
East Haddam	Region 13
East Hampton	Region 17
Essex	Region 18
Guilford	Westbrook
Madison	

AREA 9	
Bozrah	North Stonington
East Lyme	Norwich
Franklin	Preston
Groton	Salem
Ledyard	Stonington
Lisbon	Voluntown
Montville	Waterford
New London	

To email CABE staff follow this format:
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or call us at **860-571-7446**

Connecticut Code of Ethics for Boards of Education

The Code of Ethics is based upon “Standards of Leadership for Members of Boards of Education” recommended by the CAFE Board of Directors in 1974, and on the preliminary “Code of Ethics” recommended in 1977.

1. *I will* be a staunch advocate of high quality free public education for all Connecticut children. In fulfilling my responsibilities, I will think of “children first.”
2. *I will*, as an agent of the state, uphold and enforce all laws, rules, regulations and court orders pertaining to public schools. I will strive to bring any needed change only through legal and ethical procedures.
3. *I will* strive to help create public schools which meet the individual educational needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
4. *I will* work unremittingly to help my community understand the importance of proper support for public education, whether it be in providing adequate finance, optimum facilities, staffing and resources, or better educational programs for children.
5. *I will* join with my board, staff, community and students in becoming fully informed about the nature, value and direction of contemporary education in our society. I will support needed change in our schools.
6. *I will* strive to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about our schools, and will try to interpret community aspirations to the school staff.
7. *I will* recognize that my responsibility is not to “run the schools” through administration, but together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well-run through effective policies.
8. *I will* attempt to confine my board action to policy-making, planning and appraisal, and will help to frame policies and plans only after my board has consulted those who will be affected by its actions.

9. *I will* arrive at conclusions only after discussing all aspects of the issue at hand with my fellow board members in meeting. I will respect the opinions of others, and abide by the principal of majority-rule.
10. *I will* recognize that authority rests only with the whole board assembled in meeting, and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the board.
11. *I will* acknowledge that the board represents the entire school community, and will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups. I will never use my position on the board for the gain of myself or my friends.
12. *I will* hold confidential all matters pertaining to schools which, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools.
13. *I will* insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical.
14. *I will* strive to appoint the best professional leader available when a vacancy exists in the chief administrative position.
15. *I will* strive to appoint the best trained technical and professional personnel available, upon recommendation by the appropriate administrative officer.
16. *I will* support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. I will strive to ensure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities, but the necessary authority to perform effectively.
17. *I will* refer all complaints through the proper “chain of command” within the system, and will act on such complaints at public meetings only when administrative solutions fail.

Messaging Platform

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) is the foremost nonpartisan statewide organization dedicated to school district governance and the only organization in the state exclusively focused on promoting effective leadership among boards of education.

CABE has been serving boards of education since 1906: today, the organization partners with about 90 percent of the Connecticut PreK-12 boards of education. Our nearly 1,200 members, representing more than half of all elected officials in the state, collectively serve as a powerful voice for the advancement of public education.

Mission

To assist local and regional boards of education in providing high-quality public education for all Connecticut children through effective leadership.

Vision

CABE is passionate about strengthening public education through high-performing, transformative local school boards/superintendent leadership teams that inspire success for each child.

Services

CABE provides services to its members in three main areas: education, advocacy, and support.

EDUCATION

CABE is the **premier provider of professional development** for Connecticut's boards of education, from orientation programs for new members to customized workshops for individual school districts.

CABE has unparalleled experience in **promoting effective governance** through leading-edge training programs that our members hail as second to none.

ADVOCACY

CABE is the **leading advocate for Connecticut's school boards** on education policy and funding issues at the state and federal levels, amplifying the needs and concerns of school districts across the state.

CABE is also the preeminent provider of **legal information and assistance** to boards of education and superintendents and has successfully participated as amicus curiae in landmark cases affecting PreK-12 education statewide.

SUPPORT

CABE is uniquely qualified to provide timely, informative **support and resources** to help its member districts navigate emerging issues in the public education landscape, including the latest trends and developments in **policy and labor relations**.

CABE also has several decades of experience conducting **executive searches** to assist districts in the recruitment and selection of top-notch candidates for superintendent and other leadership positions.

Benefits of Membership

Through membership in CABE, boards of education, and individual school board members...

- **receive timely, expert support** and guidance in legal and policy matters;
- **participate in professional development** to deepen knowledge and skills and enhance their effectiveness in district governance;
- **network with other district leaders** to share best practices and strategize about shared challenges;
- **influence decision-makers** on policy and funding matters at the State and Federal levels through a collective voice at the Legislature and state agencies;
- **learn about the issues** affecting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our schools;
- **gain access** to print and digital resources to streamline board operations and improve effectiveness;
- **leverage relationships** with state and national educational organizations and associations;
- **strengthen board-superintendent leadership teams** through customized training in governance, fiscal oversight, goal-setting, policy-making, and other key roles and responsibilities; and
- **reduce district costs** by leveraging the association's resources and expertise.

Updated September 22, 2025

OUR MISSION

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