

# POLICY

2002

1130

By-Laws

**SUBJECT: NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

The Board of Education of the Buffalo City School District shall consist of nine (9) members elected by the qualified voters of the School District at the annual election as prescribed by law.

The Board is a nine (9) member Board elected by District residents. Each member of the Board elected from the six (6) subdistricts shall serve for three (3) years. The term of office of each of three (3) members of the Board elected at-large shall be for five (5) years. The term of office of Board members shall all expire in the same year only once every 15 years (e.g., the years 2004, 2019, 2034, etc.).

9 Member Board - Education Law Section 2552  
Term of Office - Education Law Section 2553

Adopted: 4/24/02



## BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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### DISTRICT

#### Louis Petrucci

*President*

*Park District*

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716-609-1367

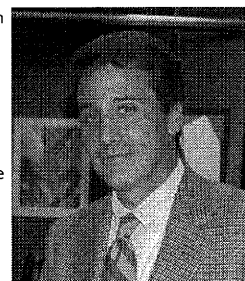
"A person sits on the Buffalo Board of Education because they have a desire to serve their community. As a product of the Buffalo Public Schools, the Park District seat on the Buffalo Board of Education has afforded me the opportunity to give back to the district that played such a vital role in the formative stages of my life. I feel it is my obligation to help others," Petrucci is fond of saying.

Since his election to the Buffalo Board of Education in 2007, Petrucci has been a member of various committees and presently serves as the chair of the finance and operations committee. Petrucci has served on the Joint Schools Construction Board (JCSB), the inclusion committee of the JCSB, as chair of the student support committee, as board representative to the education committee of the Buffalo Common Council, as board representative to the Big Five, as a member of the political action committee for the NYS School Boards Association, as a representative to the Erie County BOCES finance committee, as a member of the policy committee, and is presently a member of the Masten field task force.

Petrucci began his schooling at the former School 67, which now houses the Discovery School, and completed his elementary and secondary education at the City Honors School. A 1983 graduate of CHS and the proud father of four daughters, two of Petrucci's daughters have graduated from his alma mater. A third daughter presently attends City Honors. His youngest is a proud member of the Discovery School family.

Petrucci has been happily married for twenty years to the former Shannon Gehen. They both are active in a variety of local organizations. Shannon formerly served on the South Buffalo Baseball Association board and on the board of the South Buffalo Community Association. Petrucci himself is involved with numerous community-based and not-for-profit organizations. Petrucci is a member of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Advisory Committee and the Erie County Parks Advisory Board. He is president of the board for the Dog Ears Book Store and the Enlightenment Literary Arts Center. He was formerly active in youth soccer where he sat on the board of the South Buffalo Youth Soccer Association and also coached both indoor soccer and the girls Under 16 travel team. He has coached cross-country, track, and soccer at Saint Ambrose School. He is an at-large member of the Erie County Democratic Party Executive Committee.

Petrucci is a member of the Local 2651 AFSCME Executive Board and Negotiating committee. He formerly served on the executive board of Council 35 and the Buffalo Chapter of the AFL-CIO. Petrucci also serves as treasurer for Can You Dig It, Inc., a local not-for-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of Buffalo. Petrucci began his school board experience by serving on the Saint Ambrose Catholic Academy school board. He served as chairman of the finance committee and board president. Petrucci credits much of his present knowledge to the experience he gained while serving on the Saint Ambrose board.



Louis Petrucci

#### Rosalyn L. Taylor

*Vice President of Executive Affairs*

*East District*

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On January 26, 2011, Rosalyn Taylor was officially appointed to fill the East District seat for the Board of Education. She comes to this position with a wealth of knowledge, experience and insight after returning from the Buffalo Public Schools for over 37 years. Starting in the Buffalo district as an elementary education teacher, she has held a variety of administrative positions in her career such as Program Coordinator and Elementary Supervisor. At the time of her retirement, she was Assistant Superintendent for School Operations in the Instructional Department. In addition, she was instrumental in working as the instructional liaison to the one billion dollar School Reconstruction Project.

Rosalyn Taylor is a product of the Buffalo Public Schools, having graduated from School #31 and East High School. She attended the State University of New York College at Buffalo where she received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Masters of Science in Education. Later, she received a Masters in Administration and Supervision from Canisius College.

Mrs. Taylor is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She was also a member of the Buffalo Council of Supervisors and Administrators and past president of the Central Office Educators Association. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Bob Lanier Center and Oracle Charter School.

She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her contribution in the field of education and service in the community. In retirement, she continues to volunteer in the community and enjoys reading and traveling.

Rosalyn Taylor has been a resident in the East District for 30 years. Also, she is the loving mother of one son, Ryan Eugene, who is a police officer in Richmond, Virginia.



Rosalyn L. Taylor

**Mary Ruth Kapsiak, Ed.M, S.D.A***Central District**Vice-President of Student Achievement*

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716-225-0529

**Mary Ruth Morrow-Kapsiak** began her career as a NYNEX Corporation Customer Service Representative employed in Business Marketing. She served as Chairperson of the Upstate Union and served on the National Organizing Committee, and was a member of the National Coalition of Black Trade Unionist.

She has earned several degrees including a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication, University at Buffalo; Certificate of Completion, Orton-Gillingham Method for Reading from the Gow School in South Wales, N.Y; Masters of Science in Exceptional Education, from Buffalo State College; Masters of Science, Reading, Canisius College; and completed her certification in School District Administration certification from Canisius College.

She was a special education teacher and reading teacher at Community School #53 in Buffalo. Prior to her experiences at School #53, Mary Ruth was a reading teacher for grades pre-kindergarten through six at Broadway Village Elementary # 57 where she conducted assessments and evaluations while teaching the Orton-Gillingham method of teaching reading. In September of 2002, she worked as Adjunct Professor in Reading at Medaille College. Mrs. Kapsiak was appointed as Assistant Principal of Stanton Academy #31. In 2004, she was appointed Assistant Principal at Dr. Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence # 89. She ended her career with the Buffalo Public Schools as Supervisor of Elementary Education in 2006.

On May 1, 2007, Mary Ruth was elected to the Buffalo School Board as Central District Representative; July 2nd she was installed as Central District Representative, and on the same day she was elected President of the Buffalo School Board. Her professional associations include the following: Life Membership in the N.A.A.C.P., and serves on the Executive Committee of the N.A.A.C.P., Membership in Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society; Vice President of the Metro Buffalo Alliance of Black School Educators; Member of The National Association of Black School Educators; Member Phi Delta Kappa Professional Organization; Member Delta Kappa Gamma Society International; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Epsilon Omega Chapter; Board of Directors, Women for Human Rights and Dignity; Past Board of Directors of the Buffalo Urban League, University at Buffalo Alumni Association; Canisius College Alumni, and State University of New York at Buffalo.

Her awards and honors are numerous and include: Worked at initiating the first group of The Coalition of 100 Black Women of Buffalo; N.A.A.C.P Received The N.A.A.C.P. Rufus B. Fraiser Human Relations Award 2005, Manchester Who's Who 2005& Who's Who of Women in the East, , Western New York Educational Leadership Council, 2003; Apple for the Teacher Award, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.; Regional Leadership Development Training Institute in 2002, Inducted into the Uncrowned Queens in 2001 Children's Hospital Outstanding Volunteer Service to Children's Champs 1996; NAACP Membership Award, 1986; International Register of Profiles, Cambridge, England, 1985; International Register of Profiles, London, England, 1983; Marquis Who's Who publication 1983, Buffalo Urban League's Advisory Council 1983, National Kidney Foundation Award in 1983; Black Achievers in Industry Award 1979, and many more.

Mary Ruth attributes her accomplishments to God and a loving family. She is a member of St. John Baptist Church where she serves as a Trustee, Pastoral Ministry, Health Ministry, and contributes to the Sunday school. She resides in Buffalo with her husband Jim.

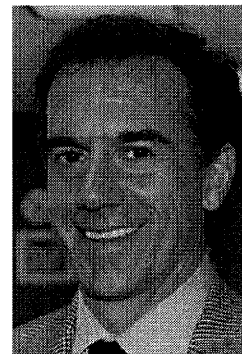


Mary Ruth Kapsiak, Ed.M, S.D.A

**Mr. John Licata***Member-at-Large*

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716-982-2996



Mr. John Licata

**Mr. Christopher Jacobs***Member-at-Large**Vice-President of Executive Affairs*

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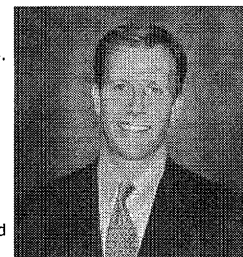
**Chris Jacobs** was elected to the Buffalo Board of Education in 2004 and re-elected in 2009. Chris currently serves as Vice-president for Student Achievement on the Board of Education. He has focused this Committee on raising the bar for student performance and increased accountability for results from students and staff. This year the elementary school children recorded unprecedented gains in state test scores for English and Math, English a 43% gain over the last two years and more than 90% in math. Chris is committed to building on these gains so they begin to translate into dramatically increased graduation rates in the District.

Chris has also served for four years on the Joint School Construction Board (JSCB) the entity charged with the \$1 billion dollar renovation of all the Buffalo Schools. Chris also has served as Chair of the Finance and Operations Committee. Chris has been actively involved in educational endeavors for the last 15 years.

In 1995, he co-founded the BISON Scholarship Fund. BISON is a private charity that raises

donations to provide tuition assistance to low/moderate income families who want to send their children to private grammar school. Since its inception BISON has raised over \$3 million dollars in private donations and awarded over 10,000 scholarships to Buffalo Children. Chris also co-founded one of Buffalo's first charter schools. The South Buffalo Charter School (SBCS) was founded in 1994. Chris was a co-founder and the first President of the Board of Directors. SBCS is a full K-8 school with over 600 children and has well regarded as one of the best performing charter schools in New York State.

In terms of education, Chris' activities are principally volunteer-based. His full-time job is as a real estate developer in Buffalo. Chris owns Avalon Development. Avalon is a real estate development company that focuses principally in the redevelopment of older/underutilized buildings in downtown Buffalo. Founded in 2002, Avalon has grown from owning one building to now redeveloping and owning over seven buildings and 250,000 square feet of space in the city of Buffalo. He has received several awards for his preservation efforts and his commitment to a renaissance in downtown Buffalo. Chris received a law degree from SUNY Buffalo, a MBA from The American University in Washington, DC, and a BA from Boston College.



Mr. Christopher Jacobs

#### **Mrs. Florence Johnson**

*Member-at-Large*

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**Florence D. Johnson** is the Immediate Past Chair of the National Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) for the National School Boards Association (NSBA). In the capacity of CUBE Chair, she served on the NSBA Board of Directors and continues to serve on the Executive Committee of CUBE.

Mrs. Johnson is a past president of the Board as well as a past Vice President for Student Achievement. She currently serves on the four standing committees of the Board and as the New York State School Boards Association Area I delegate to the Federal Relations Network and the State Legislative Network. Mrs. Johnson also serves as the Conference of Big Five School Districts' representative on the New York State Commissioner of Education School Board Members' Advisory Council.

Mrs. Johnson is Project Director for the Student Support Services Program, a TRIO federally-funded program grant at the State University of New York College at Buffalo. In this role, she monitors the academic progress of 200 students who meet the criteria for low-income and first-generation students attending a four-year college.

Listed in Who's Who in American Education, Mrs. Johnson is the recipient of numerous awards recognizing her work in that field. Most notably are the Education Award from the National Conference for Community Justice and the New York State Governor's Award for African-American Distinction. Mrs. Johnson was presented with two prestigious awards in 2002: the Diane Miller Award for Commitment in Public Education from the Erie County School Boards Association, and the Queen Smith National Award sponsored by the Council of Great City Schools.

Mrs. Johnson received a bachelor's degree in exceptional and elementary education from Buffalo State College and a master's degree in education from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Mrs. Johnson has been recognized for her activities in the Buffalo community as well as her membership of 46 years at Calvary Baptist Church, where she continues to serve in various capacities. She and her husband George have two sons, George Jr., and Isaac.



Mrs. Florence Johnson

#### **Mr. Ralph Hernandez**

*West District*

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**Ralph Hernandez**, President and West District representative for the Buffalo Board of Education, has a distinguished record of service to his country and to his community. His entire adult life demonstrates responsiveness to others, both through his career choice and his volunteer activities. When elected to the Board of Education in May 2004, Mr. Hernandez made history in two impressive ways: He is the first Hispanic immigrant to be elected to the Board of Education, and the first school board member elected as a write-in candidate. Born in Puerto Rico, he was raised in Spanish Harlem and graduated from P.S. #109 in Manhattan.

When the family moved to Buffalo in the mid 60's, Hernandez attended Grover Cleveland High School and, at the age of 17, he joined the US Marine Corps. He is a Viet Nam veteran and received the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the DMZ of the Republic of Viet Nam. At the age of 19, Ralph Hernandez became the youngest sergeant in his battalion. He received two meritorious promotions as well as seven medals for distinguished service. He received an Honorable Discharge at the age of 21.

Hernandez is a Human Rights Investigator for the New York State Division of Human Rights. He has a BS degree in Social Sciences from Medaille College, and has earned 44 credit hours towards a Masters in Health Services Administration.

His volunteer commitments span 25 years of community service, including eight years as a Little League football coach. He has served in a position of responsibility with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Hispanics for Fair and Equitable Reapportionment, the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, the Erie County Cultural Advisory Committee, and the Sheehan Memorial Hospital Foundation Board. He is Chairman of the Bilingual Educational Advisory Committee, and a member of the Parents Advisory Board at School #18. Ralph Hernandez has devoted his time to young people for many years, having served as a substitute teacher, coach and mentor. He is also the host of El Barrio, a weekly television program produced by WKBW Channel 7. Mr. Hernandez is married, and his three sons attended Buffalo public schools. His grandson, Christian, attends Campus West.



Mr. Ralph Hernandez

#### **Jason M. McCarthy**

*North District*

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**Jay McCarthy** serves as the North District member of the Buffalo School Board. Jay was elected in May 2010 on a platform of creating neighborhood schools through strong community activism. His motivation in running was that seeing too many of his friends and members of the community leave Buffalo because of the schools and quality of life. Jay grew up in Buffalo and believes in the power of a solid public school system to keep the best and brightest residents wanting to live and work in the City.

Jay currently serves on the Joint Schools Construction Board which is charged with the ongoing \$1 Billion reconstruction effort of the various Buffalo Schools. He recently started a campaign on the Board to increase awareness of student nutrition. Jay believes we should be helping to educate our students on how and what to eat so that they can live healthier lives which will help to reduce childhood obesity while increasing student awareness and performance during the school day.

Jay also conceptualized and founded Buffalo Micro Parks, whose mission it is to transform previously underutilized or abandoned areas of Buffalo's waterfront into activity focused and broadly appealing public parks in order to spark enthusiasm, encourage civic involvement, secure long term sustainability and promote commitment and investment in our urban waterfront environment. To that end, he also started BuffOLA, a non-profit, that with Jay's leadership and a committed Board of Directors developed "The Barkyard," an Off-Leash Area which is the first Buffalo "micro park." It has attracted more than 2000 users and their canine companions a week during peak season! Jay was instrumental in assisting in the raising and securing of funds necessary to build the new dog park, which is on the waterfront in LaSalle Park.

Jay is a graduate of St Joseph's Collegiate Institute and the University at Buffalo. In between his activism and work as a member of the school board, Jay can be found working at Hutch's Restaurant. He lives in North Buffalo in the same neighborhood he grew up in, with his wife, Betsy Kreiner McCarthy and their daughter Elise.



Jason M. McCarthy

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**Sharon Belton-Cottman**

*Ferry District*

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Sharon Belton-Cottman

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# 2010 City of Buffalo School Board Election Results

## Official Tally of Election Results

As of May 14, 2010

### CENTRAL SUBDISTRICT

Absentee Votes Are Included in the Official Results

30 OF 30 DISTRICTS REPORTING                      100%                      1,142 Votes cast out of 23,800                      4.80%

CANDIDATE	SUBDISTRICT	TOTAL VOTES	% OF VOTES
Mary Ruth Kapsiak	CENTRAL	662	57.97%
Bryon J. McIntyre	CENTRAL	451	39.49%
Blank, Void and Scattering	CENTRAL	29	2.54%

### EAST SUBDISTRICT

Absentee Votes Are Included in the Official Results

- 15 OF 15 DISTRICTS REPORTING 100% 646 Votes cast out of 23,149 2.79%

CANDIDATE	SUBDISTRICT	TOTAL VOTES	% OF VOTES
Vivian O. Evans	EAST	336	52.01%
Theresa A. Harris-Tigg	EAST	285	44.12%
Blank, Void and Scattering	EAST	25	3.87%

**FERRY SUBDISTRICT**

Absentee Votes Are Included in the Official Results

21 OF 21 DISTRICTS REPORTING 100% 1,417 Votes cast out of 25,819 5.49%

CANDIDATE	SUBDISTRICT	TOTAL VOTES	% OF VOTES
Kinzer M. Pointer	FERRY	649	45.80%
Pamela D. Cahill	FERRY	718	50.67%
Blank, Void and Scattering	FERRY	50	3.53%

**NORTH SUBDISTRICT**

Absentee Votes Are Included in the Official Results

19 OF 19 DISTRICTS REPORTING 100% 2,790 Votes cast out of 29,914 9.33%

CANDIDATE	SUBDISTRICT	TOTAL VOTES	% OF VOTES
Lawrence L. Scott	NORTH	548	19.64%
Patricia E. Devis	NORTH	950	34.05%
Jason M. McCarthy	NORTH	1,273	45.63%
Blank, Void and Scattering	NORTH	19	0.68%

**PARK SUBDISTRICT**

Absentee Votes Are Included in the Official Results

19 OF 19 DISTRICTS REPORTING 100% 351 Votes cast out of 24,469 1.43%

CANDIDATE	SUBDISTRICT	TOTAL VOTES	% OF VOTES
Louis J. Petrucci	PARK	325	92.59%
Blank, Void and Scattering	PARK	26	7.41%

**WEST SUBDISTRICT**

Absentee Votes Are Included in the Official Results

18 OF 18 DISTRICTS REPORTING 100% 829 Votes cast out of 22,036 3.76%

CANDIDATE	SUBDISTRICT	TOTAL VOTES	% OF VOTES
Philip Lomax	WEST	391	47.17%
Ralph R. Hernandez	WEST	419	50.54%
Blank, Void and Scattering	WEST	19	2.29%

**TOTAL TURNOUT FOR CITY OF BUFFALO**

Absentee Votes Are Included In The Official Results

122 OF 122 DISTRICTS REPORTING	100%	7,175 Votes cast out of 149,187	4.81%
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