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# Presidential Priorities

It is an honor and a privilege to be nominated for MASA President-Elect. As a public school administrator having served in rural, suburban and urban school districts, I remain committed to being a strong, passionate voice for public education. I welcome the opportunity to serve our organization, you the members, and the MASA staff as we continue to advocate on behalf of all children. I also pledge to build strong supportive professional relationships that will serve superintendents and all of our component groups.

Over the past several decades, education has been under attack and it is apparent to me that education has been asked to heal all of society's ills and is expected to meet all of its perceived needs. As educational leaders, society expects us to find the cure for what ails it, predict what the future holds for our students and identify the path for student success. The expectations for education are changing faster than any period in history and it is our responsibility to create the opportunities our students need to succeed in a globally competitive market.

Due to the aforementioned expectations, it is critically important that MASA amplify and emphasize the need for investment in and support of public education. I believe that MASA members have and always will serve as the leading voice for public education in Minnesota. I also believe that we are prepared to provide the leadership needed to shape and influence the State and Federal education agenda.

I have identified the following priorities that I believe MASA should focus on to move our organization forward:

- continue to advocate for adequate, equitable and sustainable funding for our students and schools from the state and federal government;
- support the goals and strategies of the strategic plan;
- provide adequate resources and support for quality professional development opportunities for all administrators;
- advocate for support and focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and authentic assessments for students; and
- continue to be the unifying voice for public education by advocating for all students.

As tireless advocates of a world class education for Minnesota's children, I thank you for all that you do on a daily basis on behalf of your students, your schools and those you serve. I would truly appreciate your support of my candidacy for President-Elect.

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✓ *ELECT*  
*Scott Thielman*



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*MASA*  
*President-Elect*

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"Dr. Scott Thielman is a true leader. As a fellow MASA Board member, I have witnessed Scott's vision and leadership among his peers. He cares about all Minnesota schools from the most rural to the regional centers, from the suburban to the urban. As a board member, he is intuitive, thinks deeply about issues within the association and across our state. Scott has a strong commitment to service in Minnesota as he continues to find solutions to improve student achievement and the scope of education. He puts the needs of the whole above his own and engages conversation toward the "common good." These personal and analytical qualities will make him a tremendous President for our organization."

**Jeremy Kovash**

**Executive Director, Lakes Country Service Cooperative**

"Scott Thielman is a leader committed to building strong and supportive relationships with each of the MASA Component Groups. With Scott's vision and leadership the MASA Region VI Restructuring Committee was formed to refocus the Region's meetings to better meet the needs of all MASA members. He continues his efforts serving on the Regional Leadership Team to ensure that all members are included and valued. I enthusiastically endorse Scott. As our next MASA President, Scott's commitment to building relationships among all members will serve our organization well!"

**Nan Records**

**Director of Special Education,**

**Sherburne/Northern Wright Special Education Cooperative**

"I support Scott Thielman's candidacy for MASA President because I believe he has the ability to work with all of us to move our organization forward as the preeminent voice for public education in Minnesota. I have worked closely with Scott over the past seven years and have seen him: lead his district in initiatives that move them forward in the best interest of their students; lead MASA Region VI in reorganizing to meet the needs of the membership; provide leadership to MASA through his position on the MASA Board of Directors; facilitate area meetings for Superintendents that cover a wide variety of issues we deal with daily, making us more effective in meeting the needs of our students; facilitate meetings with area legislators to educate them on the issues we face and encourage their support for topics that make up the MASA Legislative Platform. Scott's strong commitment to MASA and the students of our schools will serve us well if he is elected the next MASA President."

**Jim Johnson**

**Superintendent, Monticello Public Schools**

"Scott has been heavily involved in MASA's Legislative Platform since 2007 and served as Legislative Chair for MASA. He is a thoughtful, articulate leader who will help MASA maintain its position as the preeminent voice for public education and all students in Minnesota."

**James A. Hess, Ed.D.**

**Superintendent, Bemidji Area Schools**

## ◆ Leadership Involvement

- MASA Board of Directors, 2009 - Present
- MASA Federal Advocacy Committee, 2012 - Present
- MASA Legislative Committee Chair, 2008 - 2009
- MASA Strategic Planning Committee, 2012 & 2014
- MASA Region IV Leadership Team, 2008 - Present
- MASA Region IV Chair - Elect, Chair, Past Chair, 2008 - 2011
- Central Minnesota Educational Research and Development Council (cmERDC) Board of Directors, 2008 - Present

## ◆ Administrative Experience

Superintendent, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools  
2010 - Present

Superintendent, Albany Area Schools  
2006 - 2010

Superintendent, Kimball Area Public Schools  
2002 - 2006

Principal, Corpus Christi Independent School District  
1997 - 2002

## ◆ Education

Doctor of Education - Texas A & M University

Superintendent Certificate - Texas A & M University

Master's Degree - Corpus Christi State University

Bachelor of Science - St. Cloud State University

"Scott's experience, background and achievements as an educational leader clearly match the high standards of the MASA organization and its membership whose goal is to advocate and advance public education in Minnesota. I served with Scott on the MASA Board of Directors for four years. During that time he demonstrated the highest level of professional commitment and ability to work with others to shape the foundation, vision and goals for MASA. I support and urge my colleagues in educational leadership positions to support Scott Thielman for MASA President."

**Larry Guggisberg**

**Superintendent, Roseau Public School District**

"Over the past 12 years I have come to know Dr. Scott Thielman as a superintendent of deliberate determination balanced with careful consideration by always asking the question: How will this action impact kids? Having served in one of the larger school districts in the country (Corpus Christi) and one of the smaller districts in Minnesota (Kimball), Scott is well poised to represent all Minnesota superintendents and central office component groups as president of MASA. As a past president of MASA I strongly believe, and his service to MASA demonstrates, Scott has the passion and leadership skills to continue to enhance MASA's position as a premiere public educational advocacy organization for Minnesota's kids."

**Dan Brooks**

**Superintendent, Sauk Centre Public Schools**

"I strongly support Scott Thielman as our future MASA President. Serving with him for five years on the MASA Board of Directors, I have observed Scott seek to understand issues from all sides, raise thought-provoking questions, and participate fully in setting the direction for MASA. Because of his involvement in the creation of the Strategic Plan, he is invested in moving the organization's services forward for its members. He is responsive to the issues surrounding superintendents, curriculum directors, and special education directors. More importantly, he is passionate about his responsibility to work with our legislators to move MASA's platform forward! Scott's strong commitment to service all students at high levels during the challenges today make him a superior candidate for this position!"

**Barbara Knudsen**

**Exec. Director of Teaching & Learning, Lakeville Area Public Schools**

"It has been my privilege to be a professional colleague of Scott Thielman since we first met in the fall of 2002. We were both superintendents new to our districts that fall and we have since learned a great deal about the role and calling of the superintendent! As we have grown as professionals, I have come to have a deep respect for, trust in, and appreciation of Scott! He is thoughtful and creative; he pays attention to details and seeks to do what is right. He is a good listener yet holds very strong and positive convictions. His character, approach and integrity are qualities providing excellent leadership both in his school district and for a state-wide organization like MASA!"

**Scott Staska**

**Superintendent, ROCORI School District**

"Dr. Scott Thielman is an excellent candidate for MASA president. He is an intelligent, thoughtful leader who brings strong visionary leadership from his ability to compare and contrast Minnesota with the national needs of students. Scott has the social and emotional skills that provide strong advocacy for our organization and for our individual members. He is a man of strong character whose respectful yet powerful communication skills serve us well. Since his return to Minnesota, he has been devoted to MASA and has worked to improve the organization."

**Karen Orcutt, Ed.D.**

**Superintendent, Orono Public Schools**