

VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Vernon Board of Education Earns ‘Board of Distinction’ Designation for Eighth Straight Year

The Vernon Board of Education was recently honored as a “Board of Distinction” by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) at the organization’s annual convention.

The award recognizes boards of education that work effectively as teams, a trait CABE says is shared by boards that exhibit the most effective leadership. The Board of Distinction award only goes to Boards of Education that are consistently top performers in CABE’s annual review process. This is the eighth year in a row that Vernon’s board has received this award. Only 17 districts statewide have achieved such recognition over that time.

“The Vernon Board of Education consistently goes above and beyond in its work to ensure Vernon’s students have a demanding curriculum, great teachers and grow academically each year,” said Patrice McCarthy, CABE’s executive director. “A smoothly-operating board that works together as a team and that is focused on student achievement creates a school environment where great things happen each day.”

Vernon Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph P. Macary, who was honored as “Superintendent of the Year” for 2023 by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, said serving on a Board of Education is one of the most important responsibilities a person can take on. There is an enormous time commitment, much to learn and digest and myriad decisions to make.

“Vernon has a board of education that is committed to investing the time necessary to understand the challenges we face,” Dr. Macary said. “At the same time, the board sets high standards of teaching and learning for all students.”

The Vernon Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, is committed to provide a quality education, with high expectations, in a safe environment where all students become independent learners and productive contributors to society.

Two Vernon elementary schools, Northeast and Maple Street, were named Schools of Distinction by the Connecticut Department of Education. Skinner Road School was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School, one of only four in Connecticut to receive that honor.

“We are proud of what our students have achieved over the past year,” Dr. Macary said. “And we expect even greater things as we move forward.”

Former Board of Education Chair Anne Fischer praised her former colleagues for their devotion and commitment. Serving on a board is much more than attending a meeting once or twice a month, she said. Board members serve on multiple committees, and serve as liaisons to schools and committees. “The board works collaboratively and is focused on what is best for Vernon students, and what makes our schools and community stronger,” she said.

Newly elected Board of Education Chair Paul Grabowski said that in his short time on the board he has learned the board is a team that is focused on continual improvement in the Vernon Public Schools.

“We are all on the same page, along with Dr. Macary and Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa, in getting the most out of our students,” he said. “A strong focus for the board and Dr. Macary is our ‘Vision of the Graduate.’ We want every Vernon student to experience success in a career or secondary education and to be a critical thinker, a collaborator, a communicator, a resilient individual and a responsible citizen. I am grateful to CABE for recognizing the Vernon Board of Education’s commitment and our belief that all children can learn and achieve using a whole child approach.”

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