

2019 Indiana Education Dispute Resolution Committee

1. House Appointed Board Representative

Dr. Byron Ernest (EDR Chair): byronernest10@gmail.com



Dr. Byron Ernest serves as director of educator development and partnerships for Noble Education Initiative (NEI). In this role he also serves as senior leadership advisor mentoring associate principals in their first year of service. Dr. Ernest has developed a leadership development program called 3D Leadership that is now being run in six states (Indiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida). Byron has extensive teaching and school leadership experience and was the 2010 Indiana Teacher of the Year and 2011 Christopher Columbus Foundation National Outstanding Agriscience Teacher.

Previously, Dr. Ernest served as superintendent and head of schools for Hoosier Academies. While at Hoosier Academies, Byron developed a successful teacher leader program, the Focused Leader Academy, for developing an intent-based and distributed leadership school community model. Byron also served as principal at Emmerich Manual High School in Indianapolis after it was taken over by the state for receiving seven consecutive failing annual performance grades. As principal, Byron worked with a new staff to develop a culture of excellence focusing on high student achievement and performance. The state removed Manual off the “F” list under Byron’s leadership. Emmerich Manual High School received a “C” this past year and continues to improve.

Prior to going to Emmerich Manual High School, Byron worked as the department head for agriculture science and FFA at Lebanon Community School Corporation, where he started the program from scratch. The program is now one of the largest in the state and is well respected nationally for its focus on teaching science in the context of agriculture. Byron holds Bachelor of Science degrees in animal science and agricultural education and a master’s degree in education from Purdue University. He received his doctorate from Walden University in administrator leadership for teaching and learning. In 2017 Dr. Ernest completed the Certificate for Advanced Educational Leadership program at Harvard University where he is continuing his post-doctoral studies.

Dr. Ernest serves on the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE), appointed by House Speaker Brian Bosma. During his tenure on the board, Dr. Ernest has served as secretary and chaired the State’s Graduation Pathways Panel that transformed Indiana’s graduation requirements. Legislation passed in 2019 named Dr. Ernest chair of both the Indiana School Accountability Panel that will reimagine accountability by considering student success outcomes and the Education Dispute Resolution Panel that will develop a state approved procedure for special education disputes. He also currently serves as secretary/treasurer on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Board of Directors.

2. Senate Appointed Board Representative

Patrick W. Mapes: pmapes@perryschools.org



With 32 years of experience in public education, Pat Mapes has provided leadership and advocacy at the local and state level. He has served as superintendent of the nationally recognized Perry Township Schools district since October 2016.

Prior to joining Perry Township Schools, Superintendent Mapes provided leadership to the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board (IEERB) as chair. Before that, he served as state director of teacher licensing and assistant superintendent of operations for the Indiana Department of Education, where he developed the REPA educator standards and the LVIS educator licensing and verification system, as well as state guidelines for school efficiency. Because of his vast knowledge in all areas of leading a school corporation, including operations, curriculum, and finance, Mr. Mapes was selected to join the United States Department of Education as the regional advisory chair on education issues.

Superintendent Mapes earned a Master of Arts in education and a Specialist in Education degree from Ball State University before he began his career as a teacher and basketball coach. Mr. Mapes also served as a high school principal and superintendent of schools at Delaware Community Schools in Muncie.

3. Indiana Disability Rights

Thomas E. Crishon: IDR Managing Attorney: tcrishon@indianadisabilityrights.org



Tom Crishon is the managing attorney for Indiana Disability Rights (IDR), a federally-funded independent state agency dedicated to protecting and promoting the legal and civil rights of individuals with disabilities. Tom manages the litigation practice and systemic advocacy for IDR. His practice includes many disability-related issues, though he has a special interest in fair housing and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Tom also acts as the agency's ADA coordinator and serves as vice president of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana's Board of Directors. Tom graduated with a bachelor's degree from Ball State University and a juris doctor degree, cum laude, from the University of Toledo College of Law.

4. The Arc of Indiana

Kim Dodson: Arc Executive Director: kdodson@arcind.org



Kim Dodson was appointed to serve as executive director of The Arc of Indiana in July 2015. Kim first joined The Arc of Indiana in 1998 as director of government relations and was moved into the role of associate executive director in 2006.

In 2013, Kim was named executive director of Arc Innovations, Inc. and The Arc Building Corporation. These related entities with The Arc focus on employment opportunities for people with disabilities and have worked to establish the Erskine Green Training Institute and Courtyard Muncie at Horizon Convention Center, a landmark project that provides training to people with disabilities to work in the hospitality, food service, and health care fields.

The Arc of Indiana has 43 local chapters throughout the state representing 61 counties and over 30,000 individual members. The Arc was established in 1956 by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who joined together to build a better and more accepting world for their children. Today, the combined strength of local Arcs, state Arcs and The Arc of the United States makes The Arc the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Kim has over 25 years of work experience in the field of public policy and government affairs. She has worked for a United States congressman, the Indiana House of Representatives, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and as a contract lobbyist for a local law firm.

Kim received degrees from Purdue University in political science, management, and literature.

Kim is active in several organizations including the Indiana Society of Association Executives (board member), the Governmental Affairs Society of Indiana (committee member), the Steering Committee for the National Council of Executives of The Arc (second vice chair), the Indiana Coalition for Human Services (past board member), the Indiana Interagency Coordinating Council on Autism and the Special Education Advisory Council.

Kim is a native of Kokomo, Indiana and lives in Westfield with her husband, Steve, and two children.

5. Department of Education

Dana Long: Special Education Attorney/Due Process Supervisor: dalong@doe.in.gov



Dana L. Long, Esq., is the special education attorney with the Indiana Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and supervisor of the Dispute Resolution Team. Ms. Long previously served the Department of Education as legal counsel in the Office of Legal Affairs (1995 – 2013) and assistant director of the Office of Legal Affairs (2005 – 2009). Prior to coming to the department in 1995, Ms. Long was legal counsel with Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services representing individuals with disabilities. Ms. Long also served as referee with the Brown Circuit Court, presiding over small claims court, misdemeanors and class D felonies, and traffic court. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Long taught junior high and high school math in northwest Indiana. She earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees with a major in math from the Indiana University School of Education (Bloomington) and her J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law (Bloomington). Ms. Long was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1980.

6. Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE)
Dr. Angela (Angie) Balsley: Executive Director, Earlywood Educational Services:
abalsley@earlywood.org



Dr. Angela Balsley is the president-elect of the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) and the Executive Director of Earlywood Educational Services, a special education cooperative serving six school districts in and around Johnson County. Dr. Balsley taught students with significant disabilities for nine years and has been a special education director for twelve years. She is the family member of an individual with disabilities, worked in the group home setting at ADEC, and worked seven summers at Camp Millhouse, a camp for individuals with disabilities. Dr. Balsley's dissertation through Indiana University focused on special education dispute resolution.

7. Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA)

Lisa Tanselle: ISBA General Counsel: ltanselle@isba-ind.org



Lisa F. Tanselle has been employed with the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) since 1990, initially as a staff attorney. She was promoted to general counsel in September 2015. Prior to her employment with the ISBA, she was on the legal staff of the Indiana Department of Education for five years and served as the legal consultant for the Division of Special Education for one year. Ms. Tanselle's responsibilities with the ISBA include advising school board members, school administrators, and school attorneys on all aspects of school law matters, but particularly in the areas of the education and employment of individuals with disabilities and unfair labor practices.

Ms. Tanselle has spoken at numerous conferences, seminars, and in-services on a variety of school law subjects. On behalf of the ISBA, she has co-authored manuals on employee discharge proceedings and student discipline.

Ms. Tanselle is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance, and the Indiana University Law School in Indianapolis.

8. Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents (IAPSS)

Dr. Robert L. Taylor, Ed.D.: Superintendent, Lebanon Community School Corporation:
taylorb@leb.k12.in.us



Dr. Robert L. Taylor is a third generation public school educator who believes that the art of teaching is the noblest of professions. Throughout his tenure in education, Dr. Taylor has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal at the high school, middle school, and elementary school levels in both the United States and Europe. Dr. Taylor has served as the Superintendent for the Lebanon Community School Corporation, located in Lebanon, Indiana, since 2006. After a 42 year career in public education, in August of 2019, Dr. Taylor will become the associate director for the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents

Robert was awarded a Doctorate of Education degree in leadership and policy from Indiana University, an M.S.Ed in school administration from Indiana University, and a B.S. in elementary education from Olivet Nazarene University. Dr. Taylor has served as an educational consultant and professional mentor for education/business partnership development, educational programming, and education leadership. He has provided staff development training for business leaders, administrators/educators, and upper level operational managers throughout China, Europe, and the United States. Robert has made presentations at the Chinese Ministry of Education Principals' Conference, National School Board Association National Conference, and the International Conference for Middle Grades Learning in Zurich, Switzerland and Frankfurt, Germany. He has served as a keynote speaker and presenter at the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns annual conference, the National Symposium for Middle Grades Education and at the Western Regional Conference for Middle Level Education. He has served as an elected member of the board of directors for the European League for Middle Level Education, the Indiana Middle Level Education Association, and the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents. In October of 2015, Dr. Taylor was the keynote presenter at the Zhejiang Province Education Conference for school administrators and directors, hosted in Hangzhou China by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Dr. Taylor has received numerous professional honors and recognitions. In 2016 Dr. Taylor was chosen by the current Vice-President of the U.S. to serve as the vice chair of the Indiana Regional V Works Council and currently is the chair of the Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation's Executive Board of Directors. Dr. Taylor was named the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents' 2013 Superintendent of the Year representing region V. He was elected by his peers as the president of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents and served in that position in 2014-2015. Robert was selected to serve as the Mayor's representative on the City of Lebanon's Redevelopment Commission (RDC) and currently serves as the president of the RDC. Dr. Taylor is a member of the Boone County Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors. In 2014 Dr. Taylor was awarded the prestigious Boone County Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year Award. This was the first time in the history of the Chamber that a professional educator was a recipient of this award.

Prior to moving to Lebanon, Indiana, Dr. Taylor worked with the Department of Defense Overseas Education Activity in Germany from 1981 until 1995. During his tenure in Germany, Dr. Taylor served in several educational administrative positions: educational program manager, director of technology, building administrator, director of security, operations and plans and deputy superintendent for business affairs.

Dr. Taylor is married and has two children. Matthew is a graduate of Indiana University and holds a master's of finance from Southern Methodist University and an MBA from the University of Chicago, Booth Business School. After serving for nine years as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, he is currently the chief executive officer for WIN Corporation and the managing director of Gypsum Ridge Capital Investments. Cole is a graduate of Purdue University and works for the Omni Corporation as a senior corporate accounts manager. Cole currently resides in Dallas, Texas. Robert's wife Jackie is a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and Indiana University. She has served in elementary school administration and as the director of student services and mental health for several Indiana school corporations.

9. INSource

Joel Boehner: INSource Executive Director: jboehner@insource.org



As a transracial foster/adoptive father to two African-American children on the autism spectrum whose privilege it is to lead [IN*SOURCE](#), a non-profit organization that serves families with disabilities in Indiana, I believe that children with disabilities have tremendous potential and that an appropriate education will realize that potential paying remarkable dividends in individuals' lives and our society as a whole. The path forward involves humility, collaboration, restlessness, and hope--please join me. More about me at www.linkedin.com/in/joelboehner.

10. Parent—student with a disability (pending—subject to EDR vote)

11. Parent—student not receiving SPED services (pending—subject to EDR vote)