



## New Mexico School Boards Association

300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
Phone: (505) 983-5041 □ Fax: (505) 983-2450  
website: [www.nmsba.org](http://www.nmsba.org)

### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 20, 2020

Contact: Joe Guillen (505) 470-3967

#### Statement from NMSBA President Olivia Calabaza on Behalf of NMSBA Executive Board and Board of Directors



*During this unprecedented national health emergency, the NMSBA Executive Board, Board of Directors and Staff know that school districts face a myriad of issues and uncharted waters in terms of dealing with school governance and operations. We know that our elected school board members “450 and strong” throughout New Mexico continue to face difficult decisions that impact the lives of students and their families.*

*We acknowledge and thank our boards across the state for working through challenging governance, leadership, and management issues and we are moved by the genuine concern of our members for the children who are impacted by these decisions and the creativity and dedication of our districts in meeting these challenges.*

*Our schools are the hub of our communities and the center of so many memorable events in the lives of our children. While the unfortunate reality is that there will likely be more disruptions ahead for our children, parents, staff and teachers, I know that our school board members working closely with superintendents will continue to act in the best interests of the over 300,000 public school children across New Mexico. I am also confident that our dedicated school board members will provide stability and model effective governance at a time when it is so desperately needed.*

*I'd like to close with a quote from TV personality Fred Rogers. When Fred was a small child, he would sometimes see or hear or read about something disturbing on the news that would frighten him. His mother would reassure him by telling him to "look for the helpers." There are always those who are willing to help others during turbulent times. Thank you for being one of those helpers when our students and their families need it the most.*

*Be assured that NMSBA will continue to serve its members “450 strong” throughout this time. Please continue to utilize the information we are sharing, go to the Coronavirus resource page on our website, and continue to take advantage of opportunities to provide input to our state leaders who are under immense pressure as well. And please reach out to Joe Guillen, Executive Director, and our staff by phone or email to let us know how we can assist you in the days and weeks ahead.*

**Olivia Calabaza**

NMSBA President

**Olivia Calabaza**  
President

**Marvyn Jaramillo**  
President-Elect

**Dymorie Maker**  
Vice-President

**Christine Ludi**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Pauline Jaramillo**  
Past-President