



# RUSS HARRIS

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RECEIVES NYSSBA'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Russ Harris, President of the Newark Central School District Board of Education, has received a distinctive Level 4 Board Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA).

NYSSBA's recognition program is comprised of four achievement levels which are reached by accumulating points by participating in various training activities including state-mandated training workshops, board officer's academy, legal workshops, convention.

Included among these many activities in Harris's experience is that he has attended four roundtable sessions with the Commissioner of Education in Albany.

Superintendent Susan Hasenauer presented Harris with the NYSSBA plaque at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

*"The New York State School Boards Association's Recognition Program is designed to acknowledge school board members who strive to continually to expand their governance knowledge and skills. I would like to congratulate Russ Harris for earning a Level 4 Board Lifetime Achievement Award," she said. "Thank you, Russ for all of the time and dedication you put into being a member of the Newark Board of Education. The countless hours and the 17 years you have dedicated to our students and the entire Newark School District is to be commended and is greatly appreciated!"*

Although the plaque he received from NYSBBA shows he's earned the benchmark 500 points to earn the Level 4

Lifetime Achievement Award, Harris has actually accumulated 645.



*Superintendent Susan Hasenauer and Harris pose for a photo after she presented him with NYSSBA's plaque.*

*"It's very important for Board of Education members to participate in ongoing professional development," he said. "School issues are more complex than ever and understanding information sent down from state and national School Board Associations is critical to the operation of our school district. I am proud to serve the NCSD's teachers, staff and administrators in helping to keep the district moving forward during these highly-uncertain times. The many challenges facing school districts require diligence and advocacy with local, state and national elected officials to insure equity that our students deserve."*

For his achievement, Harris will also be recognized at the annual NYSSBA Convention; receive free registration to one of the annual conventions; be recognized in NYSSBA's *On Board* magazine and received an executive pen set.

Harris has served on the NCSD Board of Education from 1993 until 2003 and was Vice President during the 1999-2000 school year.

He was re-elected to a fourth-three-year term on the BOE in May 2014. He was re-elected to a sixth, three-year term on the BOE in May of 2020 and is currently serving as BOE president for the fifth consecutive year. Harris served as BOE vice-president in 2015-16.

He has been an officer in the Four-County School Boards Association for six years and is currently First Vice President.