



## Missouri House of Representatives

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**June 24, 2025**

**CONTACT: Rep. Dirk Deaton**  
**(573) 751-9801**  
[Dirk.Deaton@House.Mo.Gov](mailto:Dirk.Deaton@House.Mo.Gov)

### **Representative Dirk Deaton Honors Jonathan Russell for Service to Missouri School Boards' Association**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – State Representative Dirk Deaton is recognizing Jonathan Russell of Neosho for his years of exemplary service to public education and the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA). Russell was honored by MSBA on June 16, 2025, at the Hilton Branson Convention Center for his contributions and leadership in education governance across Missouri.

“Jonathan Russell is a model of service, leadership, and civic dedication,” Rep. Deaton, R-Newton County, said. “His impact on schools, fellow board members across our state, and especially his consideration for parents and kids educational needs will be felt for years to come.”

Russell served on the MSBA Board of Directors from 2020 to 2025, including terms as President and Vice President. A longstanding member of the Neosho School District Board of Education for twelve years, he held roles as President, Vice President, and Secretary. He also earned Distinguished School Board Member Certification and actively contributed to national education leadership through the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA).

In addition to his work on the local board, Russell has been a member of the MSBA Task Force on Teacher Workforce, the Future Builders Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee. His professional background includes work as a realtor and small business owner, and he is a member of several real estate associations.

Russell previously served as a Legislative Assistant to former State Representative Marilyn Ruestman and holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Missouri Southern State University. His local civic engagement includes leadership in the Neosho Lions Club, the Neosho-Newton County Library Board, and as a founding member of the Bright Futures Neosho Advisory Board.

Rep. Deaton presented a House resolution to Russell, commending Russell for his enduring contributions to Missouri's students and school communities.

*Representative Deaton represents McDonald and Newton counties (District 159) in the Missouri House of Representatives and chairs the House Budget Committee. For more information, contact Rep. Deaton's office at 573-751-9801 or by email at [Dirk.Deaton@House.Mo.Gov](mailto:Dirk.Deaton@House.Mo.Gov).*

*-###-*