



Board of Education Candidate Professional Development Session

By the end of this session, Board Candidates will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of what makes an effective Board of Education
- Understand roles of board members, roles of the superintendent and where they intersect
- Understand expectations of candidates in the timeframe leading up to and following the election
- Understand how to engage in a fair, equitable, and transparent election

Why do we have Boards of Education?

- Create a shared vision for the future of education
- Set the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance
- Provide rigorous accountability for student achievement results
- Develop a budget and present it to the community, aligning district resources to improve achievement
- Support a healthy school district culture for work and learning
- Create strategic partnerships with the community stakeholders
- Build the district's progress through continuous improvement
- Adopt and maintain current policies
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Ratify collective bargaining agreements
- Maintain strong ethical standards

So, you're officially a Candidate for the Board...

How did I get here?

Qualifications & eligibility for membership on the Board:

- Able to read and write
- Qualified voter & resident of the district (18 or older)
- Resident of the district at least one year
- Not recently removed from a district office
- May not reside with another Board member
- May not be a current employee
- May not simultaneously hold another public office



So, you're officially a Candidate for the Board...

Prior to the election:

- Communication
 - Transparent
 - Information is shared with all candidates
 - Email can be FOILed & "Reply All"



So, you're officially a Candidate for the Board...

And you win!

- Next Steps
 - Meet with the Superintendent and Board President as a "Trusted Elect"
 - Appointed and seated at the Annual Reorganizational meeting on July 8th at 6:30
 - Must complete NYSSBA new Board Member training
 - Summer Board Retreat and Development is on July 18th from 9-3
- Assigned an Experienced Mentor
- Don't be afraid to talk about your experiences and ask questions!



Self-Reflection: What brings you to the Board?



- Maybe you want to be the voice of students
- Maybe you asked a lot of questions about a decision that was made
- Maybe you are worried about the direction you thought the district is headed in
- Maybe you feel a call to be part of the solution
- Maybe you feel you can contribute in a unique and positive way

What is your call to action?

What challenges do Boards face?

- Influence of politics on topics and decisions in education
- Complex topics in education can be confusing and overwhelming to those not in educational settings
- Significant time commitment for a significant salary!
 - Regular BOE meetings-Twice a month
 - Subcommittee meetings of the Board
 - Special Board meetings and community forums- as needed
 - Participation in other district committees
 - Read weekly updates and preparation for meetings
 - Attend district events
- What is popular isn't always right. Some decisions will be difficult.
- Disagreements can be challenging
- Personnel decisions are not public

“I” versus “We”: Working as a Team

- Boards work together in deliberations, discussions, considerations and planning
 - Public communication should reflect this
 - What does that look like?
- Work as part of a team with the Superintendent as a single governance body
- A strong team faces difficult challenges **together**
 - Achieved through open and honest dialogue
 - Understanding of your role
 - Commitment to agreed norms

We all have a responsibility to “run” our district. *Who does what?*

- BOE
- Superintendent
- Administration
- Staff



[Please read NYSSBA article.](#) What are your key takeaways?

What is the role of the Superintendent?



- Provides leadership to guide and develop the Board
- Is an ongoing resource of information to the Board
- Works closely with the Board President to develop meeting agendas and ensure timely and clear communication
- Leads school administrators in their efforts to develop programs and strategies that support district goals for student achievement
- Responds to the news media (Spokesperson for the District with Board President)
- Is visible and present within all aspects of the school district
- Implements programmatic and fiscal decision-making

Where do our roles intersect?

Boards of Education

1. Establishes Board of Ed Goals
2. Holds Superintendent accountable
3. Provides resources and support for the district
4. Publicly supports Board decisions, listens, but does not act individually
5. Evaluates and establishes district policy
6. Sets standards for conduct at meetings
7. Hires and evaluates the Superintendent, appoints staff, grants tenure, ratifies CBA's
8. Adopts annual budget, approves fund balance transfers and allocations
9. Approves capital improvement projects, appoints architect and construction management contracts

Superintendent

1. Establishes Superintendent Goals
2. Holds others accountable
3. Responsibly allocates resources and support
4. Publicly supports Board decisions and reflects positively on the district
5. Implements policies, develop practices that support BOE policy
6. Models and follows standards for conduct at meetings
7. Responsible for personnel matters, recommends appointment and tenure, negotiates contracts
8. Recommends budgetary priorities based on district goals, explains and recommends transfers and allocations
9. Recommends facilities improvements, oversees facilities specifications and NYSED assurances

A Strong Board Member Knows...

- Seek first to understand; engage in active listening
- Apply agreed norms of collaboration
- Be open to other viewpoints, even as you apply your personal values and understandings
- Consider that “because we’ve always done it that way” may not be a sufficient reason to resist change
- The true success of a board is not measured by agreement, but by the respectful disagreement and discourse in decision making
- That after facing a difficult decision, effective boards embrace the Board's decision and move forward together



What YOU can expect from your Superintendent

- Transparency with all Board members- What one knows, we all know
- Avoids surprises, keeps the Board informed as situations develop
- Doesn't "sugarcoat" to the Board what they want to hear
- Seeks Board input and support on major decisions
- Presents alternatives to the Board in an objective manner
- Helps to orient and assist new Board members
- Develops and grows with the Board

Effective Board Governance promotes:



- An emphasis on end results for all students rather than on personal issues of the board
- Diversity in viewpoints are welcomed
- A focus on strategic leadership rather than administrative details
- The distinction between the board and CEO roles and communicates when unclear
- Collective rather than individual decisions
- A focus on the future rather than on the past or present
- Proactive rather than reactive governance

***Thank you for your interest in serving our
students and our district!***

