Serving on Your Local School Board

Presented by the Arizona School Boards Association
Your Presenters Today

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About ASBA

- Non-partisan, non-profit organization.
- Provide leadership and assistance to public school governing boards statewide.
- Promote excellence in locally governed school districts.
- Serving Arizona for 69 years and counting.
- More than 223 school boards are members.
- Represent more than 1,200 school board members and 1.2 million school children.
About ASBA

Leadership, Governance & Education related topics
Workshops, webinars, conferences, publications & consultation
AZEdNews.com

State and federal legislative, policy and legal issues
Statewide public engagement

Policy Bridge
Policy Review
Open Meeting Law Trainings

Learn more at www.azsba.org
Do you have a **vision** and **goals** for high academic achievement for all students?
Legal Basis for Governing Boards

- School districts are political subdivisions of the state possessing only the authority granted to them in statute by the legislature.
- Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) give certain powers to the governing board as a body.
- No authority is given to individual board members by statute.
- A board’s power is through majority votes at the board table.
- A.R.S. § 15-341 outlines general powers and duties.
Eligibility to Run

Board members must be:
- A resident of district (at least one year prior to the date of the election)
- A registered voter

Board members cannot:
- Be employed by the district (or have spouse employed by district)
- Serve simultaneously on more than one school board
- If serving on a five member board, have lived with an immediate family member within the last four years
- In Maricopa and Pima counties with districts of more than 250 students, have more than two related (within third degree) members serve on the same board
• **Four-year terms** (unless running to fill a vacancy of term)
• Elections in even-numbered years
• Non-partisan = no primaries
• Service begins in January following election (unless running to fill a vacancy of term)
• All volunteer
• Appointments by County Superintendent to fill vacancies
The Five Pillars of Effective Boards

Vision
Structure
Accountability
Advocacy
Conduct and Ethics
**CRITERIA** | **SCORE** | **COMMENTS**
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**BACKGROUND:** Has knowledge of public schools in Arizona, and the district.  
- Active at school or district level  
- Has attended school board meetings  
- Service to community

**Attitude toward public education, ability to be a positive ambassador for the district**  
- Commitment to improving ed. in dist.  
- Willing to accept policy role, not mgr.  
- Respectful of different viewpoints

**Work Ethic**  
- Willing to attend all meetings  
- Willing to “do homework” before mtgs  
- Willing to learn how to be a great board member

**Commitment to Team**  
- Willing to work as part of team  
- Support majority position

**Communication skills**  
- Able to express ideas to others  
- Good listener  
- Analyze and draw conclusions

**Represents entire community**  
- Does not carry the flag for special groups  
- Looks out for best interests of all stakeholders, especially the children

**TOTAL SCORE**

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**SCORING RUBRIC:**

- 5 – Outstanding
- 4 – Very Good
- 3 – Acceptable but not a strength
- 2 – Needs additional work
- 1 – Deficit
Are you #allin?

Will you actively work to **inspire** parents and other stakeholders to have **confidence** in the local public schools?
Why School Boards Matter

Your local school board makes decisions that...

• Affect virtually every important aspect of the local schools.
• Determine how your community’s children are educated.
• Support teaching and learning, and ensure student achievement.
• Determine how tax dollars are spent.
Why School Boards Matter

Behavior and attitude of board members affects the reputation of the entire school system.

The board’s decisions impact:

- Children and their parents
- The livelihood of school system employees
- The economic well-being of the community and the quality of life in its neighborhoods.
Do you have what it takes?

Do you understand your focus will be on “the big picture” ... 

and not day-to-day operations of the district?
Team Member Roles

BOARD

• Role is to **Govern**
  • Hires, evaluates and may fire the superintendent
    (the only employee the board directly oversees)
  • Sets direction and policy
  • Allocates resources
  • Monitors progress toward set goals
• Accountable to the community

SUPERINTENDENT

• Role is to **Manage**
  • Oversees the day-to-day operations of the district
  • Implements policies and goals set by the board
• Accountable to the board
Legal Authority / Chain of Command

- State and Federal Rules and regulations
- Governing Board
- Adopts Policies / Evaluates Superintendent
- Superintendent
- Staff
Are you committed to focusing on a broad range of district concerns, rather than a single issue?

Are you #allin?
Senior Leadership Team

- The governing board and superintendent
- Understand and respect each others’ roles
- Partnership based on trust and respect
  - Frequent two-way communication
  - No surprises!
  - Clear roles and responsibilities
  - Professional growth
  - Regular evaluation

TEAM SUCCESS = DISTRICT SUCCESS
Rewards

- Working to continually improve student learning
- Building a better future for our youth, our communities and our state
- Strengthening our democracy through an educated citizenry
Are you #allin?

Are you good at working collaboratively to get things done?
In the Board Room

• Use discussion at the board table to build support for decisions.
• Make all decisions in an open meeting in accordance with Arizona’s Open Meeting Law.
• Support the final vote of the board.
Outside the Board Room

Power and authority of...

Board Members
- No official power
- Can be a great ambassador or undermine decisions

Superintendent
- Great – needs to run the district
Are you committed to doing what’s right for **ALL children**, even in the face of opposition?
Follow the Code of Conduct

- Make decisions based on facts and independent judgment in the best interest of all students
- Take no private action that will compromise the district; avoid conflicts of interest
- Be objective; keep an open mind
- Keep your promises; don’t make ones you can’t keep
- Keep your sense of humor
- Remember that change comes slowly
- Use the chain of command
- LISTEN to others
Remember the Commitment!

- Do your homework before meetings.
- Attend every board meeting.
- Participate in training.
- Share your thoughts before the decision is made.
- Stay current on local, state, and federal education issues.
- Attend district events.
- Advocate for your students.
1. Pick up an information packet from the county superintendent of schools. 
   (http://www.azsba.org/becoming-a-board-member/)
2. File a campaign committee organization statement with the county elections office when combined revenue and expenses reach $1100.00.
3. Collect signatures. 
   (signature requirements can be found on the county school superintendent website)
4. File signatures pages and forms with the county superintendent of schools.
5. Run your campaign.

Decision is made by the voters in your district.
QUESTIONS?

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New Board Member Orientation

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Arizona Biltmore

Presented by the Arizona School Boards Association
Arizona School Boards Association
602-254-1100 | 800-238-4701

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GENERAL QUESTIONS
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