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 70 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

Includes pre-search and post search trainings

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.

• A.R.S. § 15-342 outlines discretionary powers.
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
The Basics of Board Service

- 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

1. Vision
2. Structure
3. Accountability
4. Advocacy
5. Conduct and Ethics
## School Board Candidate Evaluation Rubric

### CRITERIA

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<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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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

### SCORING RUBRIC:

- 5 – Outstanding
- 4 – Very Good
- 3 – Acceptable but not a strength
- 2 – Needs additional work
- 1 – Deficit
Will you actively work to **inspire** parents and other stakeholders to have **confidence** in the local public schools?
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 understand your focus will be on "the big picture" ...

and not day-to-day operations of the district?
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?
Senior Leadership Team

The governing board and superintendent:

- Understand and respect each others’ roles
- Partnership based on trust and respect
  - Frequent two-way communication
  - Support, not 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 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?
Ethics for Effective Board Members

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.
How Do I Get Started?

1. File a Statement of Interest with the county superintendent (A.R.S. §16-311H)
2. Pick up an information packet from the county superintendent of schools. ([http://www.azsba.org/becoming-a-board-member/](http://www.azsba.org/becoming-a-board-member/))
3. Collect signatures.
   (signature requirements can be found on your county school superintendent website)
4. File a campaign committee organization statement with the county elections office when combined revenue and expenses reach $1200.00.
5. File signatures pages and forms with the county superintendent of schools.
6. Run your campaign.

*Decision is made by the voters in your district.*
New Board Member Orientation

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
JW Marriott Desert Ridge

Mark Your Calendar!!
QUESTIONS?

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