New Board Member Onboarding

Arizona School Boards Association

ASBA is pleased to present this comprehensive onboarding tool for superintendents, existing board members and newly elected or appointed board members, to ensure individuals assuming this new role have the working knowledge and tools needed to serve the students in your district.

Human Resources (PolicyBridge Reference: Section G)
- The board's role in the hiring process ahead of a vote for hiring/firing employees
- District grievance procedures (i.e., public, staff, curriculum, student, etc.)
- District salary schedules and fringe benefit program, and recent salary array data for certified staff and administration
- Review the district's evaluation criteria and procedures for administrators, certified and classified support staff
- Review the district's staff development plan
- Review the superintendent's contract, evaluation (including timeline and process), job description, salary and benefits
- Review all handbooks including certified, classified, student and other pertinent district handbooks
- Current District Facility Survey/Plan
- Description of the district's building maintenance program
- Consent agenda usage
- Process for board member report and current event summary (purpose and limitations)
- Explanation of the organization of the school board's committees, standing and ad hoc committees, if any, etc.
- Orientation Plan for New Board Members:

Financial (PolicyBridge Reference: Section D)
- Current district budget summary: Explanation of how, when and by whom it is prepared, how educational needs are translated into a budget plan, how the money comes to the district, and the board's role in the process and how it prioritizes funding based in strategic goals.
- Explanation of the assessed valuation and tax structure of the district.
- Explanation of the funding/budgeting process for school districts.
- Data to address current existing bond indebtedness of the district and when various building debts will expire.
- Explanation of the board's Code of Ethics (PolicyBridge Reference: BCA)
- Master calendar of board/district activities
- If the board utilizes the committee structure, committee members could present the appropriate information during the new board member orientation. (PolicyBridge Reference: BDE and BDF)
- Writers norms of the board (dress code, arrival time, etc.)
- Board minutes (PolicyBridge Reference: BDEW)
- Unwritten norms of the board (dress code, arrival time, etc.)
- Consent agenda usage
- Process for awards and recognitions
- Board member report and current event summary (purpose and limitations)
- Explanation of the organization of the school board's committees, standing and ad hoc committees, if any, etc.
- Board member report/current event summary (purpose and limitations)
- Process for board member report and current event summary (purpose and limitations)
- Consent agenda usage
- Process for awards and recognitions
- Board member report and current event summary (purpose and limitations)
- Explanation of the organization of the school board's committees, standing and ad hoc committees, if any, etc.
Orientation Plan for New Board Members:

To provide you with a starting point, we have included data points we consider important when orienting board members to their new roles. Remember a new board member isn’t just a new board member; you now have a completely new board. The new member isn’t filling a former member’s shoes—there are their own shoes!

The superintendent and/or board are not alone when facing the task of orienting the new board member(s). ASBA provides many resources to our members. Following an election, the association provides professional development opportunities for the new board member, including New Board Member Orientation (NEMO) which is held in board election years the day before ASBA’s December Annual Conference. You can locate a current list of board development workshops at www.asba.org. Keep this in your favorites for quick reference. You also may want to consider holding work/study session and invite ASBA to conduct team transition training for your new board.

Immediately following the election and/or appointment of a new board member, the superintendent, board president and current sitting board members should call and welcome the new member(s) to the leadership team. We have listed numerous things that should follow that phone call. This is not intended to be a complete list as there may be the need to orient a new board member to issues unique to your district, but we hope this will give you the structure to formulate your own new board member onboarding program.

PREPARING FOR THE NEW BOARD MEMBER(S)

- Notify ASBA of any mid-year changes to your board with board member name, who they will replace as well as their home mailing address, cell phone number and email address.
- Register new board members for the next ASBA New Board Member Orientation (held on even numbered election years the day before the December Annual Conference).
- Organize your district’s New Board Member Onboarding schedule (include current administration, board president and board members and packets/information to distribute).
- Invite the new board member to the district office to meet staff/tour district facilities as part of onboarding.

ONBOARDING MATERIALS TO BE REVIEWED

- District name, address, main phone number and website
- Map of district boundaries with legislative district overlay
- Contact information including email address and phone number for:
  - Superintendent
  - Superintendent executive assistant and/or board secretary (if this could be 1 or 2 people depending on the district)
  - Board members (include any titles of the board each holds, i.e. president, clerk, etc.)
- Organizational chart of the school district (PolicyBridge Reference: CCA)
- List of school sites with address, phone number, website, enrollment, special programs and name of site administrator
- Number of other district owned properties, if applicable
- Map of district boundaries with legislative district overlay
- Most recent student test data.
- District transportation overview (district operated or contracted, number of miles and students, etc.) and explanation of student transportation system
- District short- and long-range goals, School Improvement Plans, if applicable, and strategic plan, including timelines
- Explanation of the district’s overall curriculum program, including local standards and assessments
- Most recent student test data.

Your district’s policy manual contains information new board members need to know. Consult your policy manual throughout this orientation process for specific information on your board policies. This document contains policy references based on ASBA’s Model Policies. Your district may not utilize ASBA’s policy services or language, may have been adapted.

District Information

- Explanation of authority and responsibilities of the board, superintendent, administrators and individual board members.
- Board policy manual and administrative guidelines (or instructions for accessing manual on the district website and PolicyBridge on the ASBA website)
- Minutes from the past year’s board meetings (or direction on how to access online)
- Board meeting procedures utilized by board and explanation of how board meetings are conducted, including:
  - Agenda structure (PolicyBridge Reference: EBDB)
  - Rules of order (PolicyBridge Reference: EEDO)