

Welcome to the Interested School Board Candidate Forum



Materials for the
April 1 2025 Election

Current School Board Members

Ball- Chatham School District

Dr. Becca Lamon

Tiffani Saunders

Laura Calderon

Andrea Rediger

Steve Bryant

Ryan Murphy

Pat Phipps

Ann Strahle



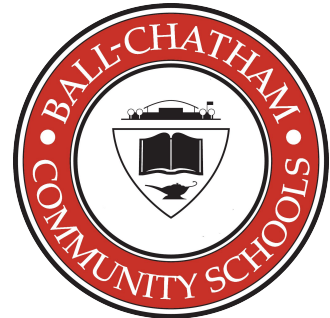
Goals for This Presentation



1. Provide an overview of the roles and responsibilities of a School Board Member
2. Share School Board Member perspectives and experiences regarding Board service, positives and challenges

School Board Member Qualifications

- At least 18 years of age at time of appointment
- US Citizen
- Resident of Illinois and District for at least one year preceding the election
- Registered voter



Requirements, Timelines and

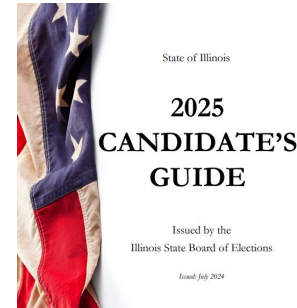
- Packets available at Sangamon County Clerk's Office Aug. 20, 2024
- Begin collecting signatures on or after August 20th, must collect 50 or more
- Petitions must be returned to the Sangamon County Clerk's office the week of **November 12, 2024** (200 South Ninth Street, Room 105, Springfield, IL 62701)

Resources and Information

Great resources for interested candidates from IL
Association of School Boards

Click pictures to link to resources

Webinars for candidates will be hosted on Sept. 12, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5



An Effective School Board Candidate

A person planning to run for school board should acquire a basic understanding of the district

- Purpose (what are the schools trying to accomplish)
- Organization (who does what)
- Finance (income and expenses)
- Government (state laws and regulations and local school board policies)
- Board procedures (how is business conducted)

An Effective School Board Candidate

A person planning to run for school board should acquire a basic understanding of the district

- The proper relationship among the following:
 - Board and the State of Illinois
 - The community and the Superintendent
 - The individual board member to the other members of the board

An Effective School Board Candidate

- **Learns Board Policy which informs what schools are expected to accomplish in such areas as:**
 - ◆ curriculum, transportation, building maintenance, staff development, student services, labor relations, human rights, and community relations
- **Understands most policies are routine/law, can rely on the judgment of the Superintendent**
 - ◆ Some are not routine, produce disagreements in community or among staff. Board members should work collaboratively with Superintendent for guidance and recommendation, while also learning enough to ask questions, evaluate answers and vote with conviction
- **Begins attending BOE meetings to learn how the Board and District function**
 - ◆ Engages with members of the board, staff, and the Superintendent to learn more about the district. Seeks resources to inform candidates such as reading materials and webinars such as those from Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)

An Effective Board Member

Effective school board members are characterized by the following:

- Ability to work as a member of a team with an open mind; can engage in give-and-take to arrive at a group consensus
- Willingness to spend time required to become informed; do the homework needed to take part in effective dialog at school board meetings
- Desire to serve children and the community; strong belief in the values of public schools and educational success
- Recognition that the school district is a large operation and the Board is responsible for seeing that the district is run by highly skilled

An Effective Board Member

- Completes all required trainings
- Ensures positive educational experiences for the youth of their communities
- Looks out for the best interests of ALL students and ALL staff
- Respects the role of being selected by one's neighbors to help guide the education of their children and community
- Conveys constant effort and a strong commitment to serving other people
- Understand that they are volunteers/public servants
- Takes the role seriously to research, prepare, seek to understand, and keep oneself informed on policy, procedure, and school law

Core Functions of a Board of Education

1. Adopt Policy
2. Hire/evaluate the Superintendent
3. Direct Superintendent through policy in his/her charge of the District
4. Approve the annual budget, tax levies, major expenditures
5. Abide by the legal authority of the Board of Education
 - a. Illinois State Constitution/ Statute; Chapter 105, School Code
 - b. Some Federal law: Civil Rights Act of 1964, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Gun-Free Schools Act, and the Family Education Rights Privacy Act
 - c. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
 - d. Regional Offices of Education (ROEs)

General Functions of a Board of Education

- Represent the citizens of the school district -not just some of the citizens, but all of them
- Enforce IL law- School boards, although elected locally, are state agencies, carry out a state function
- Employ Superintendent, hold him or her responsible/accountable for managing the schools
- Work collaboratively with Superintendent to set goals for the schools/district
- Take action only by majority vote at a public meeting *(individual members have no authority other than the right to cast a vote at a posted meeting, a member speaking for the board outside of a posted meeting, directing members of staff, or making other individual decisions is acting outside the law)*
- Conduct meetings in public to transact the legal business of the district through discussion and voting among the members, in a transparent way for taxpayers
- Allow for public comment and participation at a specific and dedicated time during the meeting

Board of Education and Superintendents

Board of Education

Governance

Core values and beliefs

Mission, vision, and goals

Policies

Action: Vote

Superintendent/District Staff

Management

Objectives

Action plans

Procedures

Action: Recommend and Implement

Traits of an Effective School Board

Effective school boards

- ◆ Know the difference between governance (their job) and management (administration's job) and place a high priority on respecting that difference
- ◆ Make every effort to operate openly by encouraging public attendance at their meetings and keeping constituents informed of the district's progress
- ◆ Enact major policies only after all sides of the matter have been studied and all persons or groups affected have been consulted
- ◆ Attempt to reach decisions that all members can publicly support
- ◆ Operate with efficiency, procedures for conducting business are appropriate to their needs
- ◆ Know they are in the business of education. They talk about education, study the needs of students and the community, and base their decisions on those needs

Who Are Board Members?

The best school board member may be you. Board members come from all walks of life. Board members are community volunteers.

The ability to function as one of a seven-member governing board is not determined by gender, occupation, race, income or social standing.

Effective board members have often proven successful in their particular vocations and have demonstrated a genuine interest, concern, and passion for public school and community success.

BCSD Board Goals

Goal 1: Work to attract and retain a highly qualified staff and increase staff diversity.

Goal 2: Provide equitable opportunities and resources to lessen the achievement gap.

Goal 3: Develop and implement district communication plan.

Goal 4: Foster cooperative relationships with school and community groups and organizations.

Goal 5: Maintain long-term financial stability to meet priorities.

Goal 6: Develop and maintain building and infrastructure short and long-range plans.

Questions

Please feel free to ask
questions of Board of
Education Members
or
District Superintendent

