



Where School Boards Learn to Lead



Running for School Board

It's About the Students!

A candidate guide from the Minnesota School Boards Association

How to Become a Candidate

School board members are elected in October each year. Members of TEAM Academy are eligible to vote. Members include parents or legal guardian of enrolled students who are enrolled with TEAM Academy. Members also include staff and teachers employed more than 15 hours per week by TEAM Academy. Each member will be entitled to one vote.

The TEAM Academy School Board is made up of nine directors. Each director shall hold office for a term of three years. The terms start and end at the Annual Meeting (November). Directors must be either a licensed teacher employed at TEAM Academy, a legal guardian of an enrolled student, or a community member. The TEAM Academy board is made up of:

- 5 licensed teachers
- 3 legal guardians
- 1 community member

Candidates interested in running for TEAM Academy School Board must inform the Nominating Committee of their intent to run. (Signup sheet in Director's Office) The Nominating Committee will meet before the October Board Meeting to certify candidates and present the nominations to the TEAM Academy School Board.

What qualities make a good school board member?

Trust, teamwork, integrity, commitment, vision, courage, and respect

After nearly 100 years of working with school boards, Minnesota School Boards Association staff have identified common traits among outstanding school board members. Board members have no individual authority; an effective board acts as a whole and respects staff expertise. Good board members develop skills over time through experience and continued training. Board members who run on a single issue or for personal gain create discord and aren't effective leaders who can improve student achievement.

Outstanding school board members are:

- motivated by the best interests of all students.
- passionate about public education.
- able to make difficult decisions.
- strong communicators, willing to listen.
- believers in the democratic process.
- willing to spend time and energy on school board business.
- committed to governance training.
- able to function as part of a team.
- collaborative.
- trusted.

MSBA's Standards for School Board Leadership

Conduct & Ethics, Vision, Structure, Accountability, and Advocacy & Communication

As the entity legally charged with governing a school district, each school board is responsible to its community for governing efficiently and leading effectively to provide for equitable education, resulting in high student achievement.

The following five standards are essential to being an effective, high-performing school board team:

Conduct & Ethics: The school board, as a whole, provides leadership to the community on behalf of the school district by conducting its business in a fair, respectful, legal, and responsible manner.

Vision: The school board, with community input, envisions the educational future of the community and then formulates the goals, defines the outcomes, and sets the course for the school district.

Structure: The school board, to achieve its vision, establishes organizational and physical structures for student and staff success.

Accountability: The school board is accountable to the community for constantly monitoring the conditions affecting the school district as a whole.

Advocacy & Communication: The school board advances its vision at the local, regional, state, and national levels.

School boards put the **PUBLIC** in education

School board service is one of the most important responsibilities a citizen can undertake. The school board's standards and decisions will affect a generation of students, your community, and society.

Governing on a public school board is a challenging job with long hours and difficult decisions. However, it is rewarding to watch students succeed and lead productive lives as a result of the educational opportunities you helped create.

As a school board member, your decisions must reflect what is best for all students. This demands a strong commitment to serving your community.

If you are willing to devote your time and talents to meeting these challenges, then we applaud your decision to run for your local school board. MSBA is ready and willing to serve you. In addition to state-mandated training, the Minnesota School Boards Association has a complete school board orientation series, as well as advanced training and on-site full board in-services. We look forward to working with you.



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