

Local Resources for New Board Members

Experienced school board members can attest to a need for assistance in wading through mountains of information while conducting the business of the board. Board members don't work full-time at this job (although there are certain times of the year that one might question that premise), so understanding where information resources can be readily found is important. Below is a list of resources (most of which should be available in your local school or supervisory union office) you will find helpful in understanding how your district works.

- School vision, mission, goals, and strategic or action plan
- Policy manual
- Past board meeting minutes (both local and supervisory union)
- Current board goals and annual agenda
- Negotiated agreements
- Salary schedules and benefit comparisons for professional and non-certified staff (<http://www.vtvsba.org/Negotiations.html> - request the ID and password from VSBA).
- Budget information
- Town Report or Annual School Report
- Current enrollment figures
- Student, teacher, and/or parent handbooks
- Curriculum guides
- Portfolio assessment materials
- Student Performance Data
- School web site
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges self-assessment & visiting team reports
- Vermont Education Law Book (copies available through VSBA or from your superintendent)
- Vermont Department of Education school comparisons web site http://data.ed.state.vt.us/apg/public_area_select_q.html