Every year, voters elect one or more school directors in their district to serve as trustees on their behalf.  It is a great responsibility to serve as a school director. After all, boards ensure achievement for all students in their district, while assuring voters they receive an excellent return on their investment. What we don’t hear enough about, however, are the rewards of school board service in Vermont. There are many and some may even surprise you.

[Examples of benefits you may choose to include depending on your perspective]:

* As a board member it’s possible to make a real and indelible impact for students in a small state where public education is so localized (Vermont has more school board members per student than any other state)
* Your decisions can positively affect the lives of students and their parents, the livelihoods of those the district employs, and the economic well-being of the community
* You will gain both a depth and breadth of knowledge about our greatest public good and equalizer in society–education
* You will attain and strengthen skills that are transferable to almost any profession (e.g. communication, problem solving, budgeting, strategic planning, teamwork/collaboration, etc.)
* You will have support to train and empower you to do your job well. This support comes from board colleagues, the superintendent and the Vermont School Boards Association.
* School board membership is among the highest forms of public service
* Other

To learn more, visit the Vermont School Boards Association’s website at <https://www.vtvsba.org/prospective>. While there, register for the webinar on December 12th,“Get on Board! Pre-Candidate Training”, which will give you an opportunity to learn more from current school board members and get your questions answered about both running for the board and leading your district to success.

Ready to be a candidate? If you live in a district that uses the Australian ballot, you must submit a petition with signatures and a consent of candidate form, which can be picked up from your school district or supervisory union office. These completed forms are due to the municipal clerk by **5:00 p.m.** on **Monday, January 29, 2024**. If you live in a district that votes during Town Meeting, you can be nominated from the floor at the meeting. Check with your district to confirm what is required by its charter.