Get on Board!
Pre-Candidate Training

December 12, 2023
Agenda!

• Welcome
• Essential Work of School Boards
• How to Become a Candidate
• Panel: Current Board Members
• Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) Support
• Q&A
Welcome Message from VSBA President

https://youtu.be/D-OSjPQe_ks
Governance

The board’s job is governance.

The act or process of governing or overseeing the control and direction of something (such as a country or an organization).

To exercise continuous sovereign authority over especially: to control and direct the making and administration of policy in.

Merriam-Webster
The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide oversight of public education, assuring:

- High quality education for every student in the district
- The public gets good return on its investment
- The system operates efficiently, effectively and ethically
Essential Work: Vision

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Engage the Community and Build a Vision

“The purpose of community engagement is to ensure that school improvement is done with the community, not to the community.”

Essential Work: Policy

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Board Roles in Policy

**Articulate values and concerns**
- Educational Results
- Legal requirements
- Community Expectations

**Delegate**
- Administration interprets policy
- Written procedures

**Monitor**
Essential Work: Board / Superintendent Partnership

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Adopt Policy
- Monitor Progress
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Effective & Ethical Operations
The superintendent is the chief executive officer of the district, responsible for all aspects of operations, and for providing educational leadership.
### Roles: Board, Superintendent, Principal

#### Board
- Sets clear goals
- Assures good communication between board and administration
- Establishes and monitors clear system for accountability

#### Superintendent
- Chief Executive Officer
  - Operations
  - Educational Leadership
- Accountable to Supervisory Union and District Boards

#### Principal
- Instructional Leadership & day-to-day school operations
- Relies on Supervisory Union action plan, priorities, and initiatives
- Accountable to Superintendent

Boards assure schools are well run - they do not run them.

Essential Work: Budget & Financial Oversight

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget &Assure Financial Oversight
- Monitor Progress
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Your budget shows the values of your school district more clearly than any other document.
Essential Work: Monitor Progress

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Adopt Policy
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Effective & Ethical Operations

Monitor Progress
Monitor: Multiple Tasks

Student Outcomes
Superintendent Review
Policy Review
Financial Oversight
Revisit Vision Statement
Essential Work: Effective & Ethical Operations

- Engage the Community & Establish a Vision
- Develop a Budget & Assure Financial Oversight
- Adopt Policy
- Monitor Progress
- Board & Superintendent Partnership
- Effective & Ethical Operations
Effective and Ethical Operations: Guidelines

School Boards Do Not Operate Schools

• They assure that schools are well run

Board members

• Recognize validity of board decisions even if they don't agree with them
• Have no legal powers outside of the board
• Maintain confidentiality of executive session
• Avoid actual or perceived conflict of interest
Eligibility for Election to a School Board

A legal voter in a school district shall be eligible for election to a school board.

However, a person is **not eligible** to hold the office of school director if they are:

- Under the age of 18.
- Not a resident in the school district in which they are seeking office.
- Regularly employed by the supervisory union they serve or by a school district within the supervisory union.
- A resident of an unorganized town, grant, or gore.
- The holder of a simultaneous position as an auditor, first constable, collector of taxes, town treasurer, town agent or town manager. *
- Married to the town auditor. *

* If a school district prepares and reports its budget independently from the budget of the town and the school district is audited by an independent public accountant, a school director or spouse of a school director is eligible to hold office as auditor, town treasurer, or assistant town treasurer.
How to Become a Candidate

Australian Ballot Districts

Step One
Visit the Secretary of State Office’s Election Division Information for Candidates - Local Office vermont.gov to download a “Consent of Candidate” form and a blank petition (https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/candidates/local-office-candidates/)

Step Two
Fill out the “Consent of Candidate” form

Step Three
Collect the required signatures on your petition from registered voters in your district

1. Town school district: lesser of 30 signatures or one percent (1%) of the legal voters
2. Unified union, union elementary, and union high school districts using either the modified at-large or at-large representation model: lesser of 60 signatures or one percent (1%) of the legal voters in the district.

All petitions are due to the municipal clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29th
How to Become a Candidate?

Town Meeting Districts

Candidates are nominated from the floor at the Town Meeting.
Our Panel
VSBA Supports School Boards

Phone and Email Consultation

Ongoing Training and Conferences
- Live Workshops
- Webinars
- Regional Meetings
- Annual Conference

Meeting Planning and Facilitation

Regular Email Updates

Website
- www.vtvsb.org

Consultation Services
- Superintendent Search
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Policy Governance
- District Consolidation Implementation
- Vermont Education Policy

Collective Bargaining Supports
- District negotiation website compilation
- Open Meeting Law
- Master Agreement Database
- Training and Consulting

Publications
- Vermont Education Law Book
- Member Newsletters
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