

Run for school board!



**BECOME A VOICE FOR
VERMONT STUDENTS**

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.

gov·er·nance | \ 'gə-vər-nən(t)s

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

gov·ern | \ 'gə-vərn

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

Merriam-Webster

The Role of a School Board

The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide oversight of public

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



Develop a Budget &
Assure Financial Oversight



Adopt Policy



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



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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



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Hire the Superintendent: Lead and Manage the District

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



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

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

<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-governance-guidance-roles-responsibilities-school-systems.pdf>

Essential Work: Budget & Financial Oversight



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Budget & Financial Oversight

Your budget shows the values of your school district more clearly than any other document.

Essential Work: Monitor Progress



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Effective & Ethical
Operations

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](https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/candidates/local-office-candidates/) [vermont.gov](https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/candidates/local-office-candidates/) 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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Great Governance, Excellent Education, Strong Communities