

## Have You Ever Considered Running for the School Board?

Have you ever considered running for the school board but decided against it because you did not know what it entailed? Many who consider the prospect shy away because of the unknown.

The most frequently asked question is, "Is it time-consuming?" The answer is "yes and no." Although the Board is scheduled to meet twice a month, they may need to meet more often depending on the circumstances of what is required at the time. All members also sit on various committees, but most meet just once a month. The reading of materials is the most instrumental part of being a good board member. Coming prepared to the meetings is essential.

The knowledge that you will gain, an understanding of how the district operates, an appreciation for the entire staff, and the development of collaborative relationships are just a fraction of what you can gain by becoming a school board member.

## What Does a School Board Member Do?

These are challenging times for public education. School boards are seeking people who find excitement and satisfaction in confronting tough challenges and working collegially to overcome them.

The Board of Education is a uniquely American institution. It keeps the country's public schools flexible and responsive to the needs of their local communities. A member of a Board of Education in New York State takes on one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to any citizen: helping to plan the education of the community's youth.

As a Board member, you hold positions as:

- An individual school board member
- A member of the district governance team composed of school board members and the superintendent
- A member of a board made of other members

The Board focuses on ENDS — vision, goals, and policy — What? Why? How Well? How Much?

The superintendent (as CEO) focuses on MEANS — objectives, plans, actions, recommendations — How? When? Where? By Whom?

In other words, the Board oversees the education of students and is responsible for school district operations but does not directly run the District's day-to-day operations.

## WHAT ARE MY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

Your major roles as a board member are:

- Representative — of the entire community
- Steward — of the district's resources
- Leader — of the district
- Advocate — for public education

To represent well, to fulfill public trust, to lead...

Your major Board responsibilities are:

- Set the district's direction — drawing upon the community, the Board describes a shared vision and established goals, standards, and strategy to transform the vision into reality
- Ensure Alignment — of strategy, resources, policies, programs, and processes with district goals
- Assess & Account for Progress — using comprehensive data, thorough deliberation, and open communication

*This article was adapted from “Running for the School Board?” by West Genesee Board of Education President Kimberly Coyne, which originally appeared in The Communicator, Winter 2023.*

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Board of Education elections are held the same day as the annual budget vote, which is set for May 16, 2023.

The community will have the opportunity to **vote for four board members. Three board positions** are for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026. The candidates receiving the highest votes will serve in the three-year term positions. The candidate with the fourth highest vote will serve in this board position from May 17, 2023, until June 30, 2024.

**In order to run for the Board of Education, you must submit a nominating petition and a completed and notarized Affidavit of Qualification to the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. on April 17, 2023, in order to be on the ballot on May 16, 2023, for the 2023–2024 budget vote.**

[Find out more.](#)