

Coyote Corner  
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for School Board Recognition Month

School Boards Make a World of Difference  
by Steven Westhoff, Superintendent

January is Board of Education Appreciation Month, and we need to say thanks to some outstanding people – our board members:

Richard Saladin, President  
Mary Lou Proefrock, Vice President  
Dave Lucey, Secretary  
James Dawson, Treasurer  
Richard Osborne, Trustee  
Sheri Thompson, Trustee  
Brian Zais, Trustee

Board members spend countless hours attending meetings, reviewing reports, and having discussions with community members regarding numerous aspects of our school district. But you may wonder, what do they really do? A board member's most important responsibility is the hiring and evaluation of the superintendent. Following that, the board is responsible for making all decisions regarding policies of the school district; decisions like "should students be required to wear uniforms to school?" would be an example.

Board of education members are also assigned specific duties. The board finance committee (made up of three board members) reviews all checks written in the school district. Not one cent of taxpayer money is spent without review by these folks that you elect. The board's facilities and transportation committee reviews all recommendations regarding replacement of roofs on a building, purchase of buses, replacement of snowplows, or decisions to close or construct a new facility. The curriculum committee reviews what is taught in every subject area at every level. This is a huge task and takes a great deal of time and experience to understand all facets of our diverse curriculum. We also have board committees for personnel, public relations, and policies and procedures. Each board member serves on a minimum of two of these committees.

All board of education members make decisions regarding budget cuts, student expulsions, and employee contracts, all of which are extremely difficult and stressful situations. Being a board member certainly is a position of service and not always a great deal of fun. These fine people, however, truly care about all of our kids, our employees, and our community, and make a world of difference. If you happen to run into one of our board members, say thanks. They work extremely hard for you!