

Being a School Board Member

Improving academic achievement

Using the most effective instructional strategies

Maintaining a safe and positive learning environment

Building financial stability

Improving parent, school and community partnership



Great reasons to serve:

- “I want to use my talents and experience to give back to our community”
- “I want to ensure each student has what they need to learn and be inspired”
- “I want to make sure education tax dollars are spent wisely”
- “I want to ensure each student graduates ready for college or career”



Not so great reasons to serve:

- “I want to make sure MY kid gets what he or she needs”
- “I want to have a say in who is hired/fired from the district”
- “I want to run for higher office, and this is a stepping stone”



Assuming your new role:

From Community Member

To School Board Member

Who

A community member, resident, parent, or district volunteer acting to address a specific need.



An elected or appointed official acting in the long range best interest of ALL students.

What

Focus is short term, specific.



Focus is long range, high level (governance)

Why

To give specific input
To support specific initiatives
To implement specific change



To ensure that each student obtains an outstanding education that prepares them for their future in a manner that justifies the resources expended

How

Complete specific responsibilities.
Lobby for change as an individual or part of a group.



Work collaboratively with fellow board members and the superintendent to bring about positive change through implemented policy.

10 Myths of School Board Service:

- Myth #1: I can speak and write as a private citizen about school issues.
- Myth #2: I *can* stay involved with school related groups.
- Myth #3: No more 6-0 votes! I am here to “rock the boat!”
- Myth #4: I have a mandate from the voters!
- Myth #5: As a former teacher (or other role) I know exactly how the school system operates.
- Myth #6: I don’t need to read or attend training to understand the issues.
- Myth #7: I **have** all new ideas!
- Myth #8: School staff can say “No” to my requests.
- Myth #9: School board service is my full-time job.
- Myth #10: I’m the only one “in it” for the kids.

**Remember, School Boards only have authority and power
when acting as a whole Board**

What's expected of me as a Board Member?

Board Member responsibilities:

- Complete Board required training (orientation, additional individual and whole Board training)
- Complete MN State mandated training within 6 months of being sworn in
- Prepare for Board meetings, be present and on time
- Model effective leadership
- Observe the principles of the Policy Governance model
- Serve at least one Board Committee
- Attend Board events
- Attend district and community events.



What tools do I need for the job?

From the District office you receive:

- District #14 ID badge and key card
- Chromebook at the School Board Meetings
- Invitations for all meetings, sent via email (please respond promptly)
- Robert's Rules of Order cheat sheet



What does it mean to govern?



Governance: The Board's Job

The School Board's authority to act is granted by the State of Minnesota (Statute 123B.09)

The Board's responsibilities:

- Set the vision for the district
- Hire the Superintendent to bring the vision about
- Connect with the community
- Set policies based on community values and monitor progress to reach those goals
- Approve the district budget
- Advocate for public education

Management: Not the Board's Job

The Board hires and evaluates only one employee; the Superintendent

The Superintendent's job:

The management of the district's schools

The administration of all Board policies



Accountability:

The Superintendent is directly accountable to the School Board.

How does the Board do its work?



Board Structure

Fridley School Board comprises of 6 members

Board Officers

Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Clerk

Board Directors

2 Board members not serving as officers

Ex-officio member

The Superintendent educates and advises the Board so that they may make informed decisions on matters requiring a Board vote.



Board Meetings:

Board Business Meetings and Workshops:
(3 to 4 hours per meeting)

Generally the Board holds one Work Session/Business Meeting each month

Board Committee Meetings:
(1 to 2 hours per meeting)

Each member serves on at least one, but usually two committees that meet as arranged

Outside committees:

Members may also be appointed to other district or professional committees, meeting times as announced

Quorum and the Open Meeting Law

Quorum:

Since our Board has 6 members, a quorum is when 4 members are present.

Meeting:

A “meeting” is when a quorum or more of the school board is gathered – in person or by electronic means, and whether or not action is taken or considered.

Open Meeting:

When proper notice is given in advance of the meeting, the public may attend and observe, and relevant materials are available to the public.

The Official School Board Calendar:

The Board's work is cyclical in nature, much like the school year.

The Board Calendar lays out the sequence and contents of meetings.

Fridley School Board meetings are held once a month.

It is a living document that is amended as needs arise.

Effective School Boards:

1. Commit to a vision of high expectations for student achievement.
2. Have strong shared beliefs and values about students' ability to learn and of the system and its ability to teach all children at high levels.
3. Are accountability driven.
4. Have a collaborative relationship with staff and community.
5. Are data-savvy.
6. Align and sustain resources to meet district goals.
7. Lead as a united team with the superintendent.
8. Take part in team development and training.

How will I receive payment for my service?

- You will have payments deposited into your bank account in January and July.
- You may also elect to deduct a portion of your pay to be deposited into a Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA) for your future use.
- Board Members are not employees of the District, and therefore are ineligible to receive employee benefits.

Remember our purpose...

Fridley Public Schools exist to that **each student** obtains an outstanding education that prepares them for their next stage of life in a manner that justifies the resources expended.

