



Prospective School Board Member Primer

A Guide for School Board Candidates 2015-2016

So you want to be a school board member . . . ?





Who is ASBSD?

Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD) is a private, non-profit organization representing more than 850 local school board members, the 150 (all) public school districts they govern and the students they serve.





What is a School Board?

- Local governing body of the school district.
- Responsibility of public education is shared with the Legislature and local School Boards.
- Power and authority of the collective board comes from the state constitution and laws.





What is a School Board?

- Elected Officials.
- Boards consist of 5, 7, or 9 members.
- Terms are initially 1 to 3 years, and 3 years after that.
- Terms are staggered on the Board.





Who is eligible?

- To be eligible to serve on a South Dakota school board, one must be:
 - At least 18 years old.
 - A resident of the school district.
 - An eligible voter of the school district or representative area.





Who is NOT eligible?

SDCL 13-7-3: No elective county, municipal, or state officer or the holder of any other office, the duties of which are incompatible or inconsistent with the duties of a school board member, shall be eligible for such membership.

- *You can run, but you cannot serve both.*





How do you run?

- Pick up a petition from the business office.
- Follow the instructions *EXACTLY*.
- Have it signed by 20 qualified voters.
- Return petition to business office before deadline.
- Each local school board sets the date for their election.





2016 Election Dates

- April 12, 2016 election:
 - Petitions not before January 29, 2016
 - Deadline to file, February 26, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
- June 7, 2016 election:
 - Petitions not before March 1, 2016
 - Deadline to file, March 29, 2016, 5:00 p.m.





2016 Election Dates

- June 21, 2016 election:
 - Petitions not before April 12, 2016
 - Deadline to file, May 13, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
- *If you MUST mail, use REGISTERED MAIL, not Certified mail.*





Why are you running?

- Do you want to be part of a team?
- Are you interested in solving problems?
- Are you concerned about quality education for ALL students?
- Are you interested in more than one issue before the school board?
- *If not, why are you running?*





Advice to a new school board member

Wayne Gibson, El Dorado
School Board Member





Advice to a new school board member

Richard Carvell, Nettleton
School Board Member





What does a School Board do?

- Basically three main functions:
 - Hire and evaluate a Superintendent. (CEO)
 - Adopt Policies and make sure they are followed (*District laws*).
 - Adopt a Budget and stay within it.





What does a School Board do?

- Creates a vision for the school district
- Gives guidance & direction to the Superintendent
- Sets goals and monitors progress
- Aligns resources with goals
- Collaborates and communicates with community
- Advocates for public education





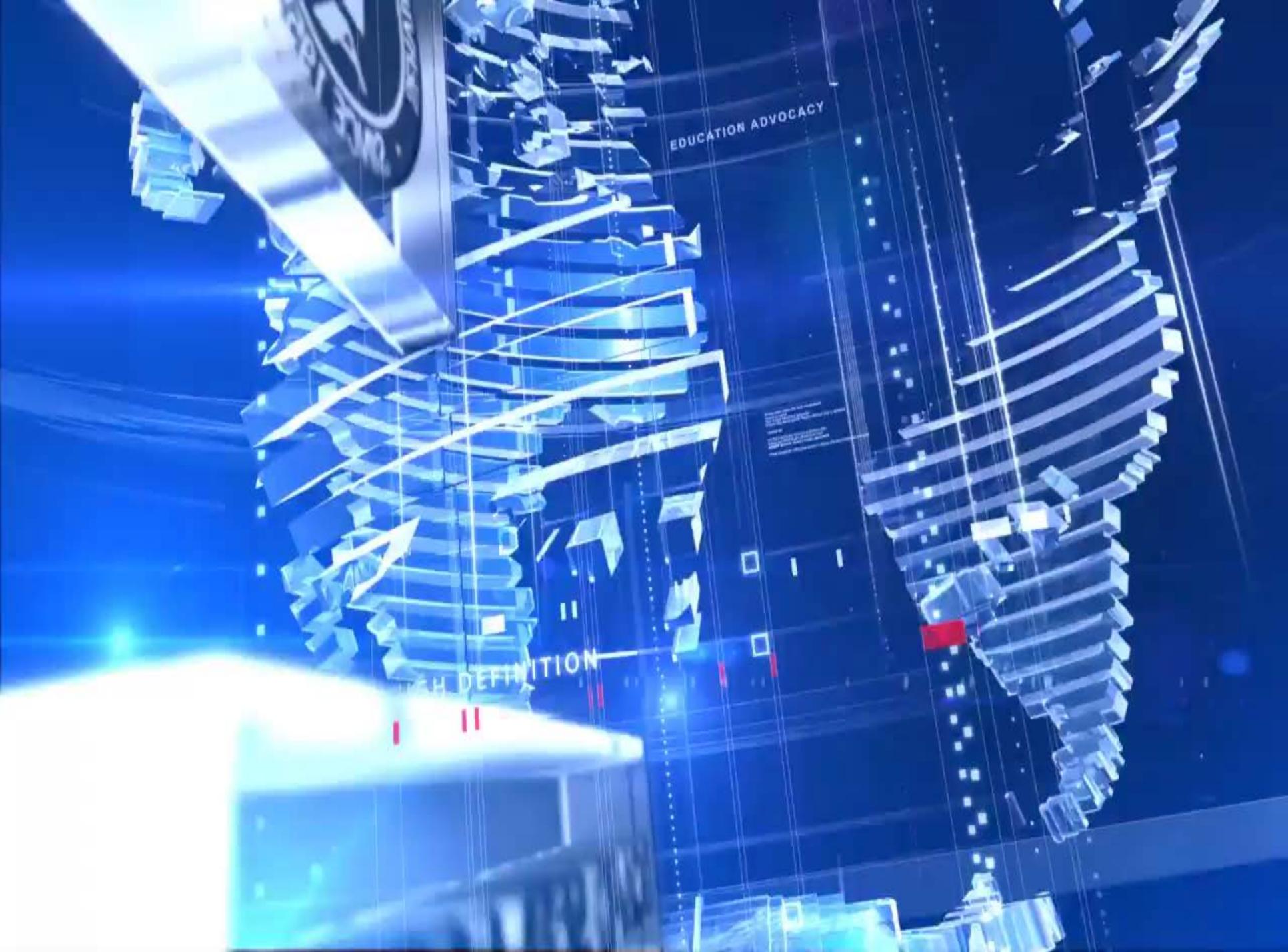
What does a School Board do?

- Levy taxes and borrow money.
- Employ necessary personnel.
- Lease real and personal property.
- Carry liability and other insurance.
- Purchase all necessary books and equipment.
- Purchase real property and erect necessary buildings for the operation of the school district
- Develop policies to provide guidance for operation of the school district.
- Ensure the district adheres to state and federal education law.



EDUCATION ADVOCACY

DEFINITION





The unique aspects of school boards

The Board has responsibilities in each of these areas:

- Legislative
- Executive
- Judicial





The unique aspects of school boards

Legislative

Develop and
Adopt
Policies

Executive

Hire and Fire
Staff

Judicial

Hold Hearings



EDUCATION ADVOCACY

HIGH DEFINITION





What makes a good Board Member?

- Works together with Board members and superintendent as a team.
- Knows only power and authority is at the Board table through Board action.
- Follows the Chain of Command.
- #1 focus is on student achievement and learning.





Laws you need to know as a school board member

- Open Meeting Law SDCL 1-25-1
- Executive Session Law SDCL 1-25-2
- Pecuniary Interest Law SDCL 6-1-17
- Employment of a Board member by the school district SDCL 13-43-1
- School Board member Code of Ethics (policy)





Open Meeting Law

SDCL 1-25-1

“The official meetings of the state, its political subdivisions, and any public body of the state or its political subdivisions are open to the public unless a specific law is cited by the state, the political subdivision, or the public body to close the official meeting to the public.”





Executive Session Law

SDCL 1-25-2

1. Discussing the qualifications, competence, performance, character or fitness of any public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. The term "employee" does not include any independent contractor;
2. Discussing the expulsion, suspension, discipline, assignment of the educational program of a student.
3. Consulting with legal counsel or reviewing communication from legal counsel about proposed or pending litigation or contractual matters.
4. Preparing for contract negotiations or negotiating with employees or employee representatives.
5. Discussing marketing or pricing strategies.





Pecuniary Interest Law

SDCL 6-1-17

“Official prohibited from discussing or voting on issue if conflict of interest exists.”

- (1) “Direct pecuniary interests,”
- (2) “Indirect pecuniary interests,”
- (3) “Direct personal interest,”
- (4) “Indirect personal Interest,”





Employment of school board member SDCL 13-43-1

“Employment of school board member in same district prohibited. No person employed to teach or to draw public money as a teacher may serve as a board member in the same school district.”





School Board member Code of Ethics

- . . . leave the daily administration of schools to the Superintendent;
- . . . the authority vests with the majority of the members of the governing board when assembled in meetings as authorized by law,
- . . . distinguish between personal views and those of the school board when making public comments regarding school district matters;





A Board Member's Job

IT IS NOT THE SCHOOL BOARD'S ROLE TO RUN THE SCHOOLS.

IT IS THE SCHOOL BOARD'S ROLE TO SEE TO IT THAT THE SCHOOLS ARE RUN WELL!





Getting Started!

- Start attending Board meetings.
- Meet with the Superintendent and Board Chair.
- Get a tour of the District.
- Read, research, study.
- Ask questions.





Board Member Professional Development

- New School Board Member Workshops
- GAVEL Training
 - School Board Governance
 - Fiscal Responsibility
 - Strategic Planning
- School Board U





Serving Board Members

. . . may contact ASBSD at any time.

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