

Filing deadline near for school board

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The best recruiter for a new school board member may be a current board member.

As the June 3 deadline nears to file in the November school board elections, it's time for current board members to start having conversations with individuals they believe would be great additions to the board.

Helping potential board members understand the roles, responsibilities and strategic direction of the district can help them make this important decision on whether to run. Along with a strategic onboarding and mentorship process, this can help the transition next January and ensure your district maintains its momentum toward its strategic goals and success for all children in your community.

Potential board candidates probably know your board sets the vision and goals for the district, hires and evaluates the superintendent and adopts policies and oversees the budget. They might not know your role in the district goes far beyond the monthly or twice monthly meetings and handing out diplomas each year.

The Center for Public Education, an initiative of the National School Boards Association, has identified eight characteristics of effective school boards. You can use this list as a starting point to think about the traits and abilities individual board members should have to help shape the future of public education in your community.

Effective boards...

- ✓ Commit to a vision of high expectations for student achievement and quality instruction and define clear goals toward that vision.
- ✓ Have strong shared beliefs and values about what is possible for students and their ability to learn, and of the system and its ability to teach all children at high levels.
- ✓ Are accountability driven, spending less time on operational issues and more time focused on policies to improve student achievement.
- ✓ Have a collaborative relationship with staff and the community and establish a strong communications



structure to inform and engage both internal and external stakeholders in setting and achieving district goals.

- ✓ Are data savvy; they embrace and monitor data, even when the information is negative, and use it to drive continuous improvement.
- ✓ Align and sustain resources, such as professional development, to meet district goals.
- ✓ Lead as a united team with the superintendent, each from their respective roles, with strong collaboration and mutual trust.
- ✓ Take part in team development and training, sometimes with their superintendents, to build shared knowledge, values and commitments for their improvement efforts.

As June 3 approaches, create a list of the top traits you believe are required to be an outstanding board member in your community, then reach out to individuals and start the conversation.

You can find additional resources to share with potential candidates at www.kasb.org/leadershiponline.