

Effective School Board Member

The National School Board Association reports that the following characteristics can be found in an effective School Board member:

1. The ability to distinguish between policymaking and administration.
2. A willingness to ensure the Superintendent of opportunities to recommend action on policy matters.
3. An insistence on policies that are sensitive to broad public needs.
4. A willingness to avoid making decisions on the basis of single-issue pressures.
5. A concern that schools be free of prejudice and discrimination.
6. An insistence that objective criteria and open and objective procedures be used when hiring new employees.
7. A willingness to channel to administrators the complaints from special-interest groups.
8. Recognition of the expertise of administrators on curriculum issues.
9. Support for long-range planning for facility and maintenance needs.
10. Sensitivity for energy conservation.
11. Concern for the appearance of school buildings and grounds.
12. An insistence on a clearly defined decision-making process involving the public.
13. A desire for appropriate Board meeting decorum and respect for other Board members.
14. Support for innovation and excellence in the schools with student educational needs put ahead of personal and political gain.

Reference: National School Boards Association

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