



STOUGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pre-Election Board Member Q&A

WHERE DO I FIND GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION?

On our SASD Board of Education Elections website:

<https://www.stoughton.k12.wi.us/our-district/school-board-information/school-board-elections>

You can find information about incumbent candidates, important dates, election paperwork, and resources.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE?

The minimum qualifications to hold office as an SASD Board member are:

- United States Citizenship
- At least 18 years of age
- Be a qualified elector of the Stoughton Area School District at the time of filing a Declaration of Candidacy
- May not have been convicted of a felony in any court in the United States unless pardoned of the conviction

More information can be found here:

<https://elections.wi.gov/candidates/local-candidates#4257225834-3180107041>

WHAT IS THE KEY WORK OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

From the National School Board Association's Key Work model:

VISION: Effective school boards establish a clear vision and set high expectations for teaching and learning in a manner that supports strong student outcomes. The leadership team's vision supports and guides the development of a strategic plan and district goals. Effective boards formulate budgets and allocate resources in a manner that is aligned with the district's vision, strategic priorities, and goals.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Accountability means measuring and judging how well the district is putting the vision into practice and making progress on key goals. Accountability starts with (1) the adoption of goals and academic and other standards, and (2) the assignment of responsibility and authority. Data and other assessments are used as a tool. Success is acknowledged and rewarded, while any lack of success drives changes and improvement efforts. School boards and individual board members also must be accountable, including by modeling desired behaviors and by establishing standards for and evaluating the board's own internal operations and performance.

POLICY: By establishing policies, a school board exercises its collective authority in order to serve students and achieve goals. Policies translate the board's vision into action and should be closely linked to (and sometimes directly establish) accountability structures and processes. While many policies are written statements that establish and provide direction for staff, students, programs, and operations, the school district budget can be viewed as one type of policy decision. The scope and substance of a board's policies also reflect and contribute to the ongoing evolution of the board-administrator relationship, including by embodying an understanding of the respective roles of the members of the leadership team.

THE BOARD-ADMINISTRATOR RELATIONSHIP: Research has shown that the board-administrator relationship is critical to the success of a school district. Both the school board and the superintendent have essential leadership roles that are interconnected but different. In simplistic terms, and keeping in mind that close collaboration is needed, the school board helps to determine what needs to happen, and the district administrator and staff determine how to make it happen. In order for the members of the leadership team to have a productive relationship that promotes public confidence in the school district, each individual member of the team must understand the unique roles and responsibilities of their position. Shared goals and clear policies can help to define roles and build a strong, collaborative relationship. In nearly all districts, issues will arise that will cause the leadership team to discuss and recalibrate their mutual understandings of their respective roles. However, effective leadership teams are consistently professional, fair and objective, honest and open, team-oriented, prepared, and respectful.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY: Community leadership is demonstrated when a school board and its members act as ambassadors and advocates for district interests. Effective school boards engage the community in an ongoing conversation that is composed of a variety of communication channels and opportunities for participation and interaction. A school district's public advocacy and community engagement initiatives can provide both formal and informal opportunities to identify and discuss information, ideas, needs, and challenges with a variety of stakeholders. School boards also have to forge relationships and work closely with legislators on legislative proposals that affect education, school funding, and a variety of other issues. School board members have a prominent role to play in telling their school district's story and in listening to stakeholders. Such communication can help to build support for the district and its students.

More detailed information on the leadership role of school boards and individual board members, as well as information on their powers, duties, and authority is available from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards.

HOW OFTEN DOES THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEET AND WHERE?

Unless otherwise noted, the nine-member Board conducts two Board meetings per month on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are held in the Board Room - District Office, 320 North Street, Stoughton.

Meeting agendas are posted in the lobby of the District Office, 320 North Street, and on the district's website. The agenda and supporting board meeting information is available electronically in [BoardDocs](#).

ARE THERE OTHER TIME COMMITMENTS?

COMMITTEES: Our Board members serve on Board appointed committees. These committees are responsible for oversight of different aspects of Board work and typically meet once per month. You can read more about the functions of these committees and their current members [here](#).

LINKAGES: The goal of linkages is for Board members to establish community relationships and allow members to meet with constituents. It is recommended that Board members meet with their linkage at least once per month. Linkages include organizations like Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Sons of Norway, Working for Kids groups, the City of Stoughton, Boosters, and more. Linkages will be appointed in the spring of each year after elections.

PREPARATION FOR MEETINGS: It is the responsibility of each Board member to come prepared to each meeting with the information they need to have appropriate discussion with other Board members and, ultimately, make decisions in the best interest of the school district. Board meeting information is posted on BoardDocs and a meeting reminder will be sent letting you know the information is ready for review. The District does its best to provide Board members with the information they will need, but members are always encouraged to reach out to the District Administrator if they have questions.

OTHER LEADERSHIP & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Board members are offered other leadership & learning opportunities throughout the year. Many of these are optional, and include seminars & workshops, Board Retreats (not optional), WI State Education Convention, and officer positions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Wisconsin Elections Commission's Office:

General Inquiries: (608) 266-8005

Help Desk: (608) 261-2028

Email: elections@wi.gov

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M-F, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.