

MPS School Board Candidate Info Session

February 2022



Agenda

- Introductions
- 2022 Election and Candidate Requirements
- Redistricting
- Timeline
- School Boards in Minnesota 101
- Brief Overview of Minneapolis Public Schools
- Minneapolis Board of Education
- Questions

2022 Election and Candidate Requirements

School Board Candidate Requirements

- Be at least 21 years old before assuming office (January 2, 2023 for the 2022 election)
- Have no other affidavit on file as a candidate for any office at the same primary or next ensuing general election
- Not be a sex offender convicted of an offense for which registration is required under MN statute section 243.166
- Be an eligible voter in Minnesota
- Be a resident of the election district (city of Minneapolis for at-large and specific district for seats 1, 3, 5), for at least 30 days prior to the general election

Candidate Filing and Reporting

- Filing period for the 2022 election is May 17th-31st
- Within 14 days of raising or spending more than \$750, you must submit an initial campaign finance report to Minneapolis Elections Office
- File an affidavit of candidacy with the Minneapolis Elections:
 - Pay filing fee or submit petition instead of paying fee
 - Submit additional financial reports
- More information on filing and reporting requirements here:
<https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/candidates/filing-for-office/>

Legal Requirements Once Elected

- Maintain residency in the district from which elected
- Cannot earn more than \$8,000 annually as an employee of the school district
- Must receive training in school finance and management developed in consultation with the Minnesota School Boards Association
- File required all required reports

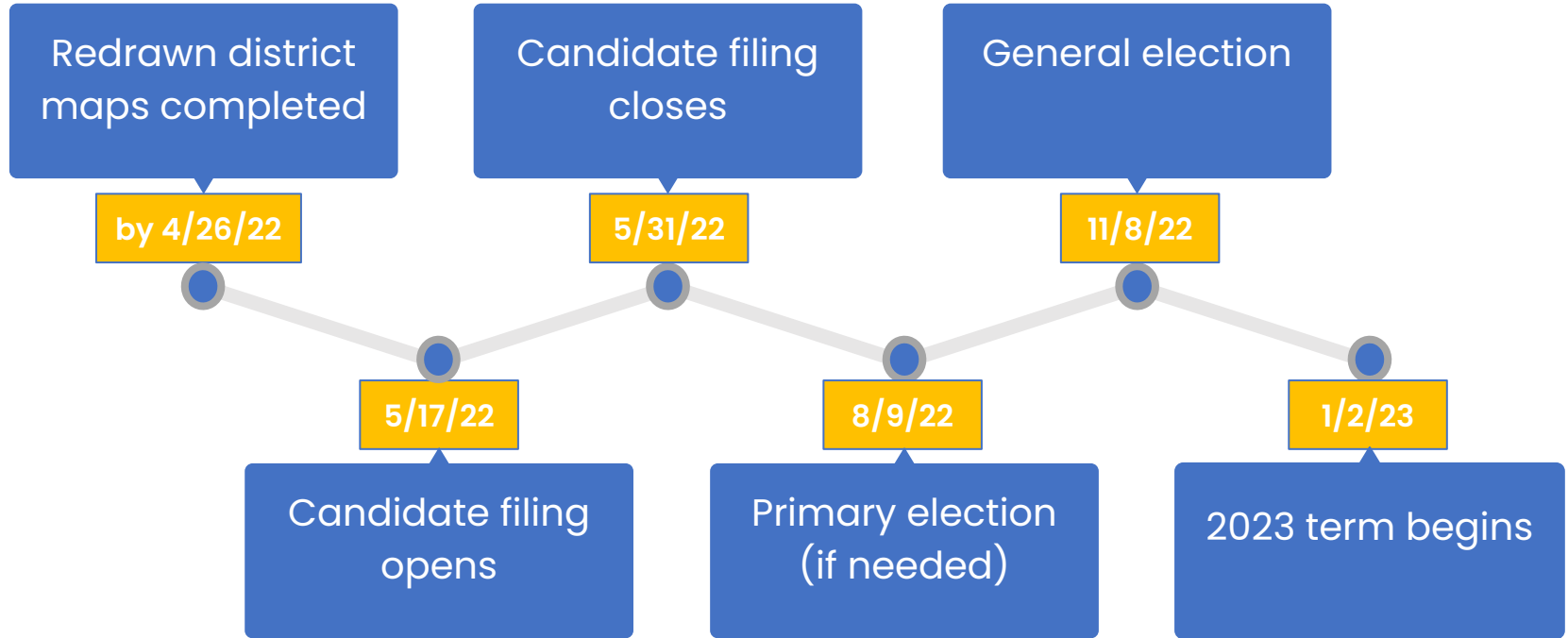
Redistricting

Redistricting of Election Districts

- Districts are redrawn every 10 years after the census to ensure equal representation
- MPS Board uses the Minneapolis Park Board districts
- City of Minneapolis Charter Commission is responsible for drawing park districts
- Must complete their work by 4/26/2022; may be completed earlier
- School board candidates running in 2022 election must file in newly drawn districts (at-large remain citywide)
- More info here: <https://board.mpls.k12.mn.us/redistricting>

Timeline

High-Level Timeline



School Boards in Minnesota 101

Authority, Responsibilities, and Limitations

- Delegated authority from the state for the care, management, and control of school district within applicable laws and regulations:
 - **MN Statute 123B.02, subd. 1:** *The board must have the general charge of the business of the district, the school houses, and of the interests of the schools thereof. The board's authority to govern, manage, and control the district; to carry out its duties and responsibilities; and to conduct the business of the district includes implied powers in addition to any specific powers granted by the legislature.*
- Authority only by majority rule in a properly noticed meeting
- Individual members, other than when specifically granted in state law or district policy, do not have individual authority

Authority, Responsibilities, and Limitations

- School Boards **focus on governance**:
 - Setting vision and mission, establishing values and priorities
 - Strategic planning, goals, and accountability for student and system outcomes
 - Hire, direct, and evaluate a superintendent to manage the day-to-day operations of the district
 - Make policy
 - Approve and monitor the budget, levy taxes as allowed
 - Collective bargaining with employee groups
 - Community and constituent engagement

Authority, Responsibilities, and Limitations

- School boards **do not**:
 - Generally make personnel decisions, other than about a superintendent
 - Make management or operational decisions, other than through the established policy-making process
- Individual school board directors **do not**:
 - Speak for the board or on behalf of the district, except to share on matters that have already been approved by the board
 - Direct work of district staff, other than the superintendent by board action

Duties and Leadership Standards

- Duties and standards of governance are outlined in [MPS Policy 8111 \(Duties of Directors\)](#)
- The [MN School Boards Association \(MSBA\)](#) has five Standards for [School Board Leadership](#):
 - Conduct and Ethics, Vision, Structure, Accountability, Advocacy and Communication

Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

- Addressed in MPS Policies [3000-3004](#) and [8510](#)
 - Position is held for the benefit of the public
 - Shall not engage in any business, transaction or have a financial or personal interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official duties in the public interest or would tend to impair his or her independence of judgment or action in the performance of his or her official duties.
 - District resources are public and can't be used for private purposes or to support political candidates
 - No special treatment based on position
 - Cannot use private, non-public, or proprietary data obtained as board member during or after service

Brief Overview of Minneapolis Public Schools

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)

- One of the largest school districts in Minnesota
- Shares geographic boundaries with the City of Minneapolis
- MPS has approximately:
 - 30,000 students
 - 6,000 employees
 - 65 schools
- Current fiscal year budget including capital projects: \$935 million
- More details at <https://mpls.k12.mn.us/about>

Minneapolis Board of Education

MPS Board Structure and Organization

- Referred to interchangeably as the “School Board” or the “Board of Education”
- The board expanded to 9 seats after passage of 2008 referendum
- 3 seats are at-large (citywide) and 6 seats are from geographic districts (same as Minneapolis Park Board districts)
- Terms are four years
- Election districts do not correlate to school attendance boundaries
- Election districts ensure geographic representation on the board, they do not correspond to oversight or management of particular schools within an election district

MPS Board Structure and Organization

- Seats are staggered by two years:
 - Districts 1, 3, 5 (currently east half of city) and two at-large seats on ballot in gubernatorial election years (i.e., 2022, 2026)
 - Districts 2, 4, 6 (currently west half of city) and one at-large seat on ballot in presidential election years (i.e., 2024, 2028)
- MPS has a non-voting, student representative seat on the board, which is shared by two high-school students
- Most districts are “independent”, but MPS is a “special school district” under MN law (MPS is formally, “Special School District Number 1”)--additional applicable statutes apply

MPS Board Structure and Organization

- Annual structure determined at organizational meeting in January:
 - Officers:
 - Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk, and Treasurer
 - Duties are set forth in both MN statute and MPS policy
 - Board Committees:
 - Two monthly standing committees (Policy and Finance)
 - Several others meet ad-hoc
 - External appointments to city boards and commissions, non-profits, and associations

MPS Board Structure and Organization

- The board is generally a single propose body, meaning the board typically acts at the recommendation of the superintendent
- Decision-making precedence in properly noticed meeting with quorum present:
 1. Federal, State, Local Laws and Regulations
 2. Board Majority Rule
 3. Board Policy
 4. Robert's Rules of Order
 5. Board Chair Discretion or Determination

MPS Board Logistics

- Time commitment:
 - Minimum of 2–3 evening board meetings per month (generally on Tuesdays)
 - Additional time for reviewing meeting materials, other meetings, constituent communication, and external appointments and committees
- Annual compensation:
 - \$20,000 for Directors
 - \$22,000 for Chair and Vice-Chair

MPS Policies

- Board policies are the laws of the district
- Currently 229 policies
- Superintendent promulgates administrative regulations which explain how policies will be implemented
- 21 policies directly address school board organization, duties, and operations:
 - These policies can be [found here](#)
 - Recommend reviewing before running for school board

Other Key Applicable Laws

- Open Meeting Law:
 - Except as explicitly provided and noticed, meetings must happen in public
 - Implications for electronic communication and social media
- MN Government Data Practices Act:
 - With limited exception for personnel data, education data, and some correspondence as elected officials, much of the work is subject to public inspection
 - Also guides confidentiality that must be followed by board members

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Can I be on the board and be an employee of the district? | Only if you make \$8,000 or less annually as an employee. |
| Can I still participate in my child's school functions if I'm elected? | While there may be specific roles that could present a conflict (e.g. PTO president or site council leader) that you'd need to set back from, board members can certainly still be engaged in their child's education. Staff are available to help process potential conflicts and questions like this. |
| What if my work schedule conflicts with board meetings? | State law requires employers to provide time off to attend official board meetings, though it is not guaranteed to be paid time off. More details can be found here . |
| What if my employment interacts with MPS? | If your employer has a financial or other interaction with MPS, you may need to recuse yourself from certain discussions and decisions. Staff can help process potential conflicts of interest. |
| Why should I want to be on the school board? | It's true that service on a school board is challenging, especially right now, but it's also an extremely critical and a fulfilling way to serve the community, especially for those who care about public education and children. |

General Questions?

Email: Ryan.Strack@mpls.k12.mn.us

Phone: 612-668-0098

Web: board.mpls.k12.mn.us

Elections Office Questions?

Email: mpls.campaigns@minneapolismn.gov

Phone: 612-673-8683 "VOTE"

Web: vote.minneapolismn.gov

Resources

- [MPS School Board Website](#)
- [MPS Board Policies](#)
- [MPS Election Redistricting Website](#)
- [Minnesota School Boards Association \(MSBA\) Website](#)
- [MSBA Candidate Webinar \(recorded\)](#)
- [City of Minneapolis Elections Website](#)
- [City of Minneapolis Redistricting Website](#)
- [City of Minneapolis Campaign Finance Website](#)