2026

Osseo Area Schools

A guide to serving as a school board member for Osseo Area Schools











The election filing period runs from
July 14 through July 28, 2026

Independent School District 279 | Osseo Area Schools | Maple Grove, Minnesota

Requirements

Membership on the school board requires attendance at a variety of meetings held every month, as well as participation on committees and other assignments. The school board meeting schedule is posted on the district website, www.district279.org.

Regular meetings

The school board holds its regular business meeting at 6 p.m. once a month (typically the third Tuesday). Meetings are open to the public.

Work sessions and negotiations strategy sessions

The purpose of work sessions and negotiations strategy sessions is to build trust and teamwork and to exchange information in order to facilitate efficient and effective decision making at regular school board meetings. At work sessions, board members learn about and discuss issues in more depth. At negotiations strategy sessions, board members discuss employee contract negotiations.

- No formal action is taken during work sessions or negotiations strategy sessions.
- Work sessions are open to the public and are typically held at 6 p.m. once or twice a month (more often, as needed).
- Negotiations strategy sessions are closed to the public and are typically held once or twice per month (more often, as needed).

Committee/task force/ organization assignments

School board members accept assignments to numerous district committees or task forces. In addition, Osseo school board members represent the district in nearly 20 metro and state education organizations with which the district has a formal relationship.

Compensation

Chair: $1350 per month
Other members: $1250 per month

Time Commitment

Time commitment varies, depending on the member and the issues the board is addressing at any given time. Typically, members may devote anywhere from 20-40 hours per month studying issues, attending meetings, and communicating with residents.

Election filing period: July 14 - July 28, 2026

A Candidate Filing Packet, including the Affidavit of Candidacy and other information, may be obtained from the election clerk during the filing period.

Osseo Area Schools

11200 93rd Avenue North | Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.391.7003
OsseoSchools.org



School Board Election

On November 3, 2026 voters will elect three residents to serve on the six-member school board for ISD 279-Osseo Area Schools. The seats will be filled by a general election because the members' terms are expiring. Board members chosen in the general election will take office in January 2027, and their terms will expire in January 2031.

Candidates may withdraw from the ballot by submitting a request to the election clerk by no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 30th.

Our Mission

According to the National School Boards Association, high-achieving school boards function in ways that improve student achievement. In every decision and every action, the school board governance role centers on improving student learning outcomes.

The school board consists of six citizens elected at large by voters in the district every two years; board members hold four-year overlapping terms. At the end of a four-year term, members may run for reelection to successive terms. Voting takes place at general elections in November, and terms begin the first Monday in January thereafter. If a vacancy occurs in the middle of a term, the school board fills the vacancy in accordance with state statute and board policy.

The superintendent is an ex-officio board member who facilitates the work of the board and is responsible to the board for providing leadership to the district and carrying out board directives.

ELECTION CLERK

Sherri Lincoln
Educational Service Center
11200 93rd Avenue North
Maple Grove MN 55369
763.391.7003
lincolns@district279.org

Key Work of School Boards

To help local boards carrying out their work, the National School Boards Association has developed a framework called the Key Work of School Boards. The framework outlines five key areas that require the board's focus.

Vision

Vision is the ability to see and create the future education the board desires. While current realities are important, vision means having a clear image of what "better" looks like--and taking the necessary steps to get there.

Accountability

School board accountability means board members take their share of responsibility for student outcomes. Accountable board members answer not only for school board actions but also for the results of board actions.

Policy

School board policies are written documents that establish the parameters within which the district operates. School boards make policy and superintendents administer policy.

Community leadership

School members interpret board concerns and actions to the public, and the public's concerns to the board. Community leadership involves building public support necessary to implement the board's vision.

Board and superintendent relationships

The most important relationship a school board must establish is with its superintendent. School districts work best through coordinated efforts of boards and superintendents.

Source: The Key Work of School Boards Guidebook. National School Boards Association, Alexandria, Virginia: 2015

Policy Governance

The ISD 279 School Board focuses on policy decisions rather than operational issues. It adopts policies that provide general principles for guiding the management of the school district, which is the responsibility of the superintendent. The administration develops procedures that specifically support the school board's policies. Policies require adoption by the school board; regulations do not require board approval.

Code of Ethics

The school board freely subscribes to tenets of the School Board Member Code of Ethics of the Minnesota School Boards Association, and strives to uphold those principles in carrying out its responsibilities (see School Board Policy 209). A detailed description of responsibilities is found in School Board Policy 203.



KEY ROLE: LEGISLATIVE

- Review policies that govern and guide the district.
- Establish long-range goals and an improvement planning process.
- Approve bylaws consistent with Minnesota statutes to govern its own operations.



KEY ROLE: EXECUTIVE

- Select and regularly evaluate the superintendent.
- Evaluate progress; approve plans for maintaining and improving the system.



KEY ROLE: QUASI-JUDICIAL

- Make determinations in cases of employee terminations and appeals; necessary actions on behalf of the district; student exclusions and expulsions.