

Public education is the cornerstone of our economy, our democracy, and our society. A strong public education system is vital to ensuring that every child has access to the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the ever-changing world. Public education exists to promote the public good and school board members guide the direction and promote our district to ensure we continue to succeed.

Qualities of a School Board Member

There are many qualifications and qualities that experienced school board members have indicated are important to school board membership. These include:

- A commitment to the belief that all children of the school district are entitled to have available to them a beneficial educational program.
- An open mind and readiness to learn.
- A willingness to attend seminars and workshops which can help them make intelligent decisions in school affairs.
- A vision and an ability to understand changes in our society.
- The ability to act with other school board members to advance the best interests of the school district.
- The capability to articulate the philosophy and goals of the school and to listen carefully to the criticisms offered by people with differing views.
- A willingness to invest the hours that will be necessary to faithfully discharge their duties.
- Freedom from conflict with any other interest.

What Does the School Board Do?

The school board leads and governs the schools and educational programs of the school district. That leadership role is performed as part of a team that includes the superintendent. The leadership team, in turn, operates within a unique framework of authority, duties, and powers that is established by a variety of state and federal laws and that is supplemented by local policy decisions with student learning and student achievement as the centerpiece of the Board's mission.

The legal qualifications for being a school board member include:

- A citizen of the United States; and
- 18 years of age or older; and
- A resident of the school district for at least 28 consecutive days at the time of application.

What is expected of a School Board Member?

As a board member, you are expected to make decisions on major issues that affect the students and citizens of your community. Some of the activities you will be expected to do include attend board meetings, attend school functions, keep yourself informed about issues, participate in professional development opportunities for yourself and the school board, and interact with your fellow board members and the superintendent. These activities require a time commitment, but it is time extremely well spent when you consider that you are helping to shape the future of the children in your community. Your fellow board members, the superintendent, and administrative team will help guide and help as you learn the roles of the board.

How much time can I expect to spend on school board responsibilities?

The time required to complete your school board responsibilities will most likely vary by time of the year. It will depend on how many meetings are scheduled. Our district has 2 scheduled meetings a month. The committee meeting is on the 1st Thursday of the month and our regular meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, both at 6:00 pm. Additional meetings may be scheduled for specific topics such as the annual meeting and board retreats.

What if I have other questions?

The board president and/or superintendent usually can answer your questions on protocol or procedure as well as issues facing the board. Other board members, both current and past, may also be good resources. You can contact the district office at 608-687-7771 to speak to the superintendent who is willing to meet with anyone regarding being a part of the C-FC school board.