



Welcome New School Board Members

This month, we welcome our newly elected school board members who will be sworn in and begin their service. Congratulations for standing up and helping to lead your local public schools. We congratulate you on your election and look forward to working with you!

To our experienced board members who will be leaving office, thank you for your service and your commitment and dedication to public education. You strengthened democracy by taking an active role in local government. I encourage you to continue your advocacy efforts as private citizens in supporting public education and the efforts of your school board. Please consider becoming a WASB alumni member to continue receiving information from the WASB.

As our current school board members and administrators know, our new board members are joining at a crucial time for public education. To help new school board members transition into their roles, the WASB offers a series of New School Board Member Gatherings. These informal, evening gatherings

take place in each WASB region between April 17 and 20. If you will have a new school board member in your district, please inform them of the gathering in your respective WASB region (see page 26). Or, better yet, join us at the gathering and bring along any new school board members in your district. The gatherings are free and open to new and experienced board members and superintendents.

Another WASB event geared toward both new and experienced board members will be taking place in May (see page 27). The Spring Academy Workshops will be expanded this year with 12 locations across the state. We hope the selection of locations will make it easier for members in every corner of the state to attend. The events will begin with a dinner and include an in-depth workshop on the roles and responsibilities of school board members. We'll discuss the foundations of effective governance as well as the open meetings and public records laws, and much more. The Spring Academy Workshops not only provide practical knowledge to help you govern your school district

but they also provide opportunities to meet other school leaders in your area. The workshops will be followed up by the Summer Leadership Institute in Green Bay on July 14-15. The agenda will be released soon.

Effective school board governance is crucial to the success of our public school districts. Every district needs dedicated and knowledgeable school board members providing the link between their schools and their communities. It is not an easy job. The challenges our public school districts face are complex and require thoughtful, long-term planning. I encourage all of our members to use the resources and opportunities available through the WASB. These include WASB events as well as a host of publications, newsletters and support in all areas of school board leadership including school law, policy, superintendent search, governance, community engagement and advocacy.

As we move forward, please remember that the WASB is here to serve you — our public school leaders. You can find support and resources at the WASB. We're here for you. ■

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