

## Board of Education Posting

### Notice of Board Vacancy

The Anchor Bay School District is seeking applications for the current vacant position on the board of education. An individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position until the November 6, 2018 elections have been held and certified and a newly elected individual has been sworn-in to fill the remainder of this position's term.

Interested persons must submit a letter answering the questions listed below to the district office's no later than 2:00 p.m. on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018. District offices are located at 5201 County Line Rd. Suite 100, Casco, MI 48064 attention Janine Accivatti Hendershot, President Board of Education.

If you have any questions concerning the role of the board of education and the responsibilities of a board member, please contact Sherrie DiCristofaro, [sdicristofaro@abs.misd.net](mailto:sdicristofaro@abs.misd.net) Anchor Bay School District at 586-725-2861

### Questions for Candidates

1. Name, address and all contact numbers.
2. Why are you interested in serving on the school board?
3. What do you see as the role of a school board member?
4. What contributions can you make to this school district?
5. What are the challenges facing our school district?
6. What qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the board?
7. After review and discussion on significant issues, the board operates by a majority by vote. When the majority vote is different from your position how would you manage the situation?
8. If appointed to the board, would you seek re-election when the appointment expires?

### Legal Qualifications for Board Members

To be eligible, a person must be a qualified school elector. This means that the candidate must be a registered voter in the school district where he or she is a candidate.

A candidate must be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States; a resident of the state of Michigan for at least 30 days; and a resident of the school district on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day prior to the date of election. Property ownership isn't a requirement for candidacy.

The Michigan election law, MCL, 168.11, defines the term "residence" as:

"A place at which a person habitually sleeps, keeps his or her personal effects, and has a regular place of lodging. If a person had more than one residence, or if a wife has a residence separate from that of a husband that place at which the person resides the greater part of the time shall be his or her official residence for the purposes of this Act."

Thus, even though a candidate may still be a registered voter in a school district and the candidate's drivers' license includes a school district address, he or she could still fail to satisfy this definition.

Be aware that the Michigan Constitution was amended in 2010 to make a person ineligible for election or appointment to any state or local elective office if the person was convicted of a felony involving dishonesty, deceit, fraud, or a breach of public trust within the preceding 20 years and the conviction was related to the person's official capacity while holding any elective office or position of employment in local, state, or federal government.

Any person registered as a voter in the school district may run for election to the school board. Men and women who become school board members may be taxpayers, parents, business people and community leaders. They may be young or senior citizens and come from all races, creed and ethnic groups. In short, school board members are people representative of the community they serve.

### What Makes a Good Board Member?

Effective School board members share a number of common characteristics. But it's important to realize no one will become fully effective the instant they're elected. These qualities are gained through experience on the board, through training provided by MASB and through individual, ongoing efforts to become informed, skillful and effective. Common characteristics of effective trustees include:

- Accepts the office as a public trust of the highest order and actively encourages community input and public involvement.
- Relies on facts, is open-minded and respects others' ideas, suggestions and criticisms.
- Shows courage in thought and action to safe-guard good schools for all children.
- Respects district staff and deals with them professionally.
- Advocates for openness and democratic process in all board activities with emphasis on team decision-making and consensus.
- Represents and reflects a deep and abiding faith in the social significance of public education.
- Seeks first to understand the issues, knowing that their decisions have a tremendous impact on their communities.
- Understands that he/she has no legal authority as an individual. It's only around the board table that decisions are made and a board member exercises any authority. Accepts the will of the majority.
- Represents the entire community and doesn't surrender to special interests or political groups. The "entire community" includes citizens who may not have a direct relationship with its public schools.
- Responds accordingly and appropriately through challenging events. Board governance is an immense responsibility and a trustee's public actions and words will impact the district, its image and integrity.
- Willingness to listen thoughtfully to others. Although board members can't be expected to agree with everything colleagues and constituents say, they're expected to listen respectfully to their opinions and concerns.
- Respects the confidentiality of privileged information and takes no private action that would compromise the board of administration.
- Abides by and supports the board operating procedures as adopted by the board.

\* from the MASB Guide to Fundamentals of Board Vacancy

### Boards Deal With a Wide Range of Issues

- Create a master plan for technology.
- Set priorities for school district expenditures.
- Establish and oversee the district's educational programs.
- Develop options for school improvement.
- Approve contracts, including collective bargaining agreements and individual administrator contracts.
- Not the least of a school board member's responsibilities is establishing a good working relationship with the superintendent. The superintendent is accountable to the school board for managing the district according to board bylaws and policies.
- Carefully observing the fine line between policymaking and administration is one of the keys to successful board-superintendent relationships. Board members must refrain from getting involved in day-to-day operations of the schools.
- Community relations is a key element of board work. School boards help build community understanding of and support for public education. The board is the vital link between the school system and the public.
- School members serve an important, political role in the improvement of public education. In this proactive role, individual board members lobby their state legislation and U.S. congressional representatives for passage of laws and adoption of funding programs to enhance education.

### Need Not Apply, Need Not Appoint

- Micromanagers, single-issue candidates and those with personal agendas.
- Candidates who don't understand the distinction between governing a school district and running it.
- Candidates who don't understand the best way to communicate with parents on emotional issues.
- Candidates who undermine the public's confidence in schools and alienate parents.
- Candidates who don't respect the will of the majority vote.
- Candidates who don't understand the time commitment and importance of preparation.