

# Serving on the Franklin Public Schools Board of Education FAQs

## **How do I get on the School Board?**

Citizens of the Franklin Public School District elect School Board members in the Spring General Election, held on the first Tuesday in April. If a primary is necessary due to the number of candidates running, the primary is held on the third Tuesday in February.

Interested candidates must be 18 years or older, US Citizens, and residents of the Franklin Public School District. Declarations of Candidacy and Campaign Finance Statements must be filed with the District Office by the first Tuesday in January in order to get on the ballot.

Candidate packets containing required documents are available at the District Office, 8255 W. Forest Hill Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Nomination papers with signatures are NOT required in the Franklin Public School District.

## **How long will I be on the Board if I am elected?**

A Board member serves a 3-year term beginning in April and ending in April.

## **When does the School Board meet?**

The Board typically meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Education & Community Center. Any changes to this schedule will be reflected on [our website's District calendar](#).

## **What is the role of the School Board?**

The school board is a policy-making body that governs the school district as officials elected by the citizens of our community. The Board hires and directs the Superintendent to achieve the goals of the [District's Coherence Plan](#). The role of the Board is to maintain, monitor, and establish policy. Wisconsin state statute defines the legal responsibilities of the School Board:

- [§120.12](#) of the state statutes enumerate a list of specific duties
- [§120.13](#) of the state statutes enumerate a list of specific powers

## **Are School Board Members paid?**

Yes. School Board members are paid a \$4,000.00 annual salary.

## **Can I be on the School Board if I work for the District?**

Under most circumstances, Wisconsin law prohibits Board members from being employed by the school district and serving as a Board member. The exception pertains to School Board members who work as an unpaid supervisor or coach.

## **What happens at Board Meetings?**

Board meetings are held in public, but are not public meetings. All of the board business is directly tied to our governing policies. The Board can take action at two points: Board Action

Items and Board Consent Agenda. Action Items generally include issues that require additional discussion. The Board takes action on all matters required by law. Consent agenda items include actions such as accepting resignations, appointing employees, accepting minutes of previous meetings, approving business reports, approving employee contracts, etc. Board Members approve an annual budget, are provided reports pertaining to student achievement, staffing, food service, communications, community and recreation and buildings and grounds and maintenance.

[Policy #8300 School Board Meetings](#)

### **What are the responsibilities of the School Board?**

While the Board has broad authority over the Franklin Public Schools, much of this authority is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools and other district employees. The Board of Education functions, not as management responsible for the day-to-day administration of the school district, but as a board of directors, responsible for establishing a vision for Franklin's schools and monitoring its progress in reaching that vision.

[Franklin Board of Education Member Handbook](#)

### **What authority do School Board members have?**

Individual Board members have no independent authority except when they are meeting as a Board of Education. The Board of Education is a collective body, and by statute, can only act when a quorum is assembled in a legally constituted meeting. The statements or actions of individual Board members do not represent or bind the Board of Education, except when that statement or action has been authorized by an official act of the Board.

### **Do Board Members handle community concerns?**

The Board sets policy for the school district. It is the administrators who are held accountable for managing the matters that relate to complying with those policies. A chain of command exists in school districts as it does in many organizations. It is important that concerns be addressed by the person closest to the source before going to the Board of Education.

### **What do the Board members do in addition to attending Board meetings?**

Board members spend personal time obtaining professional training related to their governance role. Board members also visit schools, attend school events and participate in community events.