



New Board Member Orientation Year At-a-Glance

There is a great deal for new board members to learn about the roles and responsibilities in providing effective leadership for the community in fulfilling its vision and mission for quality education of all students. In addition to the state-mandated 16 hours of training completed within their first 12 months of school board service, MSBA recommends that the local board president and superintendent provide district-level orientation to the new school board members in order to provide a smooth transition into effective board service. Consider organizing the printed materials into an indexed notebook or orientation manual.

While printed materials are useful reference tools, they cannot take the place of personal interaction. Board presidents and superintendents are encouraged to conduct learning sessions for new board members. These learning sessions may be conducted over several months so that the new board members have time to process the information and develop questions regarding their governance role.

The following suggestions are offered as guidance for board presidents and superintendents who want to get new board members off to a good start. In addition, including all board members in the sessions may provide an opportunity for continued board professional development to strengthen governance practices. Check out the ***New Board Member Resources*** on the MSBA website at www.msbanet.org, to find these and other resources.

- CBM New Board Member Training Schedule
- A Few Basics of Board Service
- Foundational Principles of Effective Governance
- Nepotism and Conflict of Interest
- Sunshine Law Basics
- Board Member Ethics
- School Board Members and Confidentiality

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PRIOR TO FIRST BOARD MEETING

FIRST THREE MONTHS (APRIL - JUNE)

FOUR TO SIX MONTHS (JULY - SEPTEMBER)

SEVEN TO NINE MONTHS (OCTOBER - DECEMBER)

TEN TO TWELVE MONTHS (JANUARY - MARCH)

PRIOR TO FIRST BOARD MEETING

	NEW BOARD MEMBER	BOARD PRESIDENT	SUPER-INTENDENT	BOARD SECRETARY
Schedule orientation with the new board members, board president and superintendent	✓	✓	✓	
Provide your contact information to the board secretary	✓			✓
Provide and explain electronic access and /or equipment, if needed		✓		✓
Register for <i>MSBA Certified Board Member training</i> for new board members (meets state requirement)	✓			✓
Examine the <i>new board member resources</i> on the MSBA website	✓	✓	✓	
Communicate first board meeting details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> date, time and location of meeting <input type="checkbox"/> board packet delivery date, method and expectations <input type="checkbox"/> basic parliamentary procedures used during board meetings <input type="checkbox"/> procedures for taking oath of office and board reorganization <input type="checkbox"/> standards of dress; what to expect 		✓		✓
Explain the Sunshine Law and corresponding district policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Posting the agenda <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Closed sessions <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic communication <input type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality; provide copy of <i>School Board Members and Confidentiality</i> (under <i>New Board Members</i> on MSBA website) 		✓	✓	
Provide copies of or access to board policies		✓		✓
Provide district information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contact information for board members and superintendent <input type="checkbox"/> Board meeting schedule for the year <input type="checkbox"/> District calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Map of geographical boundaries and attendance zones for district and buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational chart of district administration and management staff 				✓
			✓	
			✓	

Check out the ***New Board Member Resources*** on the MSBA website at www.msbanet.org, to find more resources.

WITHIN FIRST THREE MONTHS (APRIL - JUNE)

Explain the laws and corresponding district policies regarding nepotism and conflict of interest

Examine policies regarding board governance (Section B of MSBA Policy Manual)

Explain district communication protocols:

- Process for board meeting agenda development and requesting agenda items
- Process of communication between the board and superintendent; board and staff; among board members; board and media
- The chain of command and procedures for responding to concerns from patrons and/or staff
- Procedures for visiting schools
- Procedures for seeking advice from legal counsel

Provide a district overview:

- District accreditation status and areas of strength and needed improvement
- District priorities outlined in the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) or strategic plan
- District plans such as professional development; long-range facilities; safety and security; schedules for program and curriculum evaluation, etc.
- District financial status, including proportionality of funding; bond indebtedness; district audits; and the Annual Secretary of the Board Report (ASBR)
- Introduction to central office staff members

Explain the upcoming budget development and approval process

Explain the expectations regarding board participation at district and community events

Register for ***MSBA Certified Board Member training*** for new board members, if you have not already done so

NEW BOARD
MEMBER

BOARD
PRESIDENT

SUPER-
INTENDENT

BOARD
SECRETARY



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WITHIN FOUR TO SIX MONTHS (JULY - SEPTEMBER)

	NEW BOARD MEMBER	BOARD PRESIDENT	SUPER-INTENDENT	BOARD SECRETARY
Provide training on the superintendent evaluation process and tool		✓		
Share the district communication plan for providing information to the community (i.e. district newsletters; website organization and updates; alerts; media)		✓	✓	
Share the district communication plan for receiving input from the community (i.e. community involvement in planning; providing public comment at board meetings; annual surveys; community forums; committees)		✓	✓	
Provide a tour of the district campus to become familiar with locations of all buildings, including maintenance and transportation facilities		✓	✓	
Provide copies of or access to minutes from previous open board meetings		✓		✓
Explain the newly released District Report Card and Annual Performance Report (APR)		✓	✓	
Register for <i>MSBA Certified Board Member training</i> for new board members, if you have not already done so	✓			✓

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WITHIN SEVEN TO NINE MONTHS (OCTOBER - DECEMBER)

Explain key district instructional programs and assessments (i.e. reading and math programs; college and career readiness; technology implementation; assessment practices)

Explain the district evaluation process for administrators, teachers and staff

Explain the process for the superintendent summative evaluation

Explain the terms of the current superintendent contract

Explain the current salary schedules and employee benefits

Explain the status of district facilities: building maintenance projects; current and/or future construction projects

If you have not fulfilled the state training requirement, register now for the **MSBA Certified Board Member training** for new board members

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WITHIN TEN TO TWELVE MONTHS (JANUARY - MARCH)

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Explain the Collective Bargaining process, if applicable

Explain the process for filling district vacancies

Explain the process for developing and approving next year's budget

Explain the procedures for program evaluation and curriculum review and revision processes

Explain programs for specialized populations (i.e. Title I, ELL, gifted, preschool, special education) and schedule for program review

	NEW BOARD MEMBER	BOARD PRESIDENT	SUPER-INTENDENT	BOARD SECRETARY
If you have not fulfilled the state training requirement, register now for the <i>MSBA Certified Board Member training</i> for new board members	✓	✓		✓
Explain the Collective Bargaining process, if applicable		✓	✓	
Explain the process for filling district vacancies		✓	✓	
Explain the process for developing and approving next year's budget		✓	✓	
Explain the procedures for program evaluation and curriculum review and revision processes		✓	✓	
Explain programs for specialized populations (i.e. Title I, ELL, gifted, preschool, special education) and schedule for program review		✓	✓	

Resource List

Board Member Handbook (2013). Des Moines, IA: Iowa Association of School Boards.

New Board Member's Resource Handbook (2014). Austin, TX: Texas Association of School Boards.

Orienting New School Board Members On The Way to Becoming a High-Performing Board Team (2014). Springfield, IL: Illinois Association of School Boards.

A School Board Member's Resource Guide: First Year Orientation (2014). Lansing, MI: Michigan Association of School Boards.

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