



School Board Member Recognition Month

School board members have a tremendous impact on the quality of life of the whole community. Please join schools, governments and civic organizations nationwide in saluting their dedication and hard work during School Board Member Recognition Month in January. Here are a variety of ideas for activities to make this occasion special to your school board members. Please include your representative on the state Board of Education as well as your local school board members in your celebration activities.

Note: AASB encourages medium to large school systems to consider coordinating events among the schools so that neither the schools nor the board members are overwhelmed with activities during the month.

In Schools:

- Publish a “Meet Your School Board Members” mini-brochure featuring a picture and short bio of each board member. Also include a few comments from each about how they view their role on the board.
- Invite school board members to a breakfast, lunch or dinner prepared in their honor by home economics or vocational students. Use student artwork on the placemats.
- Invite parent organizations to attend the school board’s January meeting to make remarks commending the board’s service to students.
- Invite a school board member to “shadow” a student through a typical school day or ride a school bus through its route.
- Design a bulletin board display featuring school board members’ photographs, background information and years of board service.
- Put a message thanking your school board members for “charting the course for student success” on your school’s marquee.
- Introduce school board members during halftime festivities at a high school basketball game. Include a message thanking them in your game program or on the score board.
- Make a special effort to introduce school board members when they attend school functions and to thank them for their services.
- Present examples of student artwork or school T-shirts or sweatshirts to school board members.

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- Present each board member with a plant grown by the horticulture students.
- Invite board members to speak to social studies classes and explain the board's role in local government.
- Encourage staff and students to write thank-you notes or cards to school board members.
- Write board members' employers, thanking them for allowing the board member the time for board service (*see sample letter*).
- Ask a group of schools to "adopt" a board member and plan a special activity for him/her. Follow up to ensure no board member is overlooked.
- Ask your congressmen to write a letter of commendation to each board member.
- Produce a show on your cable company's local access channel to pay tribute to board members.
- Ask editors of school papers to run an editorial highlighting board members' impact on the school (*see sample editorial*). Or, ask student publications to run the enclosed advertisements in January.

In the News:

- Ask local newspapers and student newspapers to profile board members.
- Ask each board member why they serve and use their quotes in news releases and articles.
- Ask local newspapers to use Board Member Recognition Month logos and run advertisements as a public service during January (*see camera-ready ad*).
- Submit a guest column or opinion piece to your local newspaper about the job your board members do.
- Provide newspapers, television and radio stations with information about school boards and their special role in local governance of public schools. Be sure to provide a summary of the board's recent outstanding achievements.

In Your Community:

- Encourage the city council, county commission and/or chamber of commerce to issue an official proclamation honoring your school board members and commemorating January as School Board Member Recognition Month in your community (*see sample resolution*).
- Ask local merchants to use their marquees to say "thanks" to the school board.
- Host a reception for school board members prior to a regularly scheduled board meeting.
- Invite former board members to a current school board meeting and recognize them.
- Sponsor a student poster or essay contest to thank school board members for their dedication and hard work. Display the results in local banks, post offices or libraries. Send a photograph of the winners to local newspapers.
- Hold a monthly board meeting in a school to encourage public attendance and participation.
- Ask board member's employers to sponsor ads recognizing their employee for their community service.