

Welcome to your board and the "Public Eye"



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Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

Congratulations on being elected or appointed to your local school board!



We applaud your willingness to dedicate yourself to serve the children of your community.



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Prepare for life in the "public eye"!

Begin a transition to your new role:

Board Candidate → **Board Member**

Private Citizen → **Public Official**

Individual Action → **Team Action**



What do school boards do?

School boards are responsible for 4 major items of governance:

- 1. Hire and evaluate the superintendent – your only employee!**
- 2. Set and approve the district budget**
- 3. Review and adopt curriculum**
- 4. Develop and adopt policies to govern the district**



As a new board member where do I start?

What do I need to know?



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Begin with Orientation



**New member orientation –
*ask the superintendent!***

AASB provides training:

- Board Room Boot Camp
- New Member Webinar
- First Year Board Member webinar series (Jan-Apr)



Be Prepared – the public is watching!

- **Read material BEFORE the meeting**
- **Ask questions** (*especially to the superintendent or board chair*)
- **Take notes**
- ***Listen, Listen, Listen!***



Be Prepared – the public is watching!

- **Learn how the meeting works**
- **Understand the agenda**
- **Meet with your board president and superintendent**
- **Study Robert's Rules of Order (suggested www.jurassicparliament.com)**



Perspective versus Personal Agenda

- **You are now a member of a team!**
- **Perspective – your views, knowledge and understanding**
- **Personal agenda = personal gain, ulterior motive**
- **Personal agendas waste time**
- **Be patient, think of the whole**



Know Your Policy & Bylaws



- **Review your board policies and bylaws**
- **Ask questions**
- **Policy is your friend when dealing with the public**
- **Get familiar with updating your policies and bylaws**



You and the Superintendent

- **Mutual respect and trust**
- **No surprises!**
- **Have the difficult conversations**
- **Work as a team – perspective vs. a personal agenda**



Lawful meetings!

- Learn to follow the Open Meetings Act
- Conduct legal meetings – **your public is watching!**
- Beware of when you discuss board business
- Learn about email and Open Meetings Law



Listen



- **Be professional**
- **Listen to all issues**
- **Be aware of your district policies**
- **Don't make promises that 'something will be done'**
- **Work to be culturally responsive**



You CAN and WILL make a difference!

- **Take the time to learn about your new job**
- **Learn about the district**
- **Be patient**
- **Enjoy your new role in the community, it will make a difference for kids.**



The **AASB Board Standards** provide guidance for your “**public**” work as you govern the school district.

They are 5 simple themes:

- **Vision**
- **Structure**
- **Accountability**
- **Advocacy**
- **Conduct and ethics**



VISION

The board creates a shared vision to enhance student achievement

Page 11 of handbook



STRUCTURE

The board provides a structure that supports the vision

Page 13 of handbook



ACCOUNTABILITY

The board measures district performance toward accomplishing the vision and reports on the results to the community

Page 21 of handbook



ADVOCACY

The board champions the vision

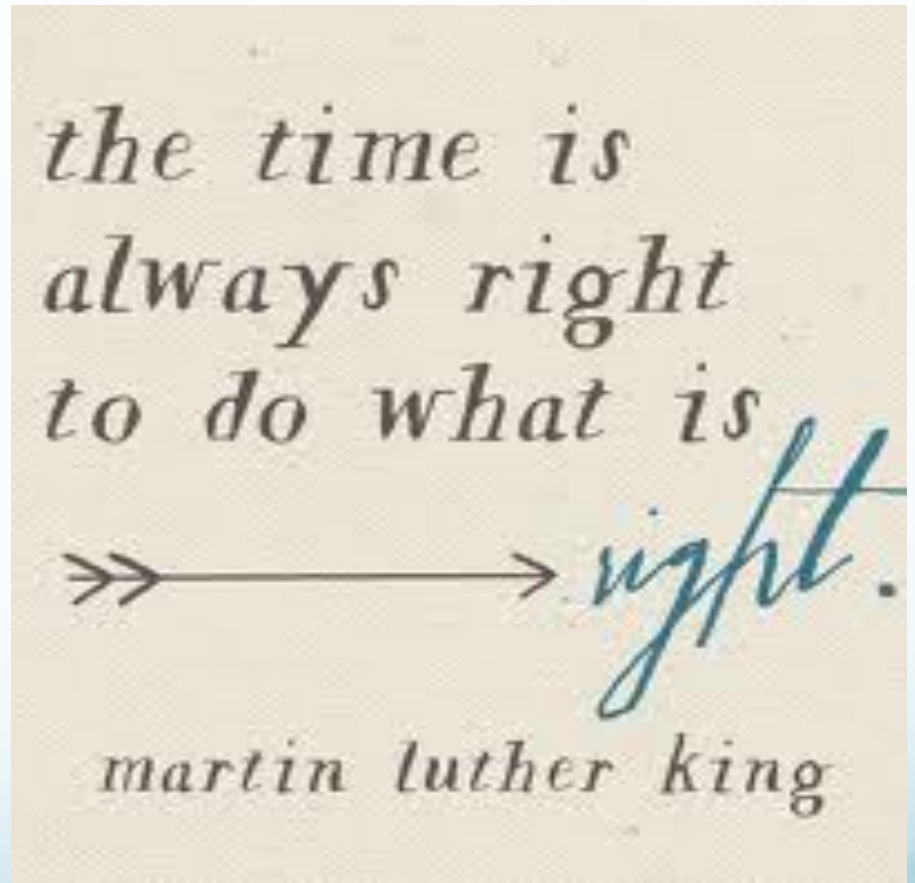
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CONDUCT & ETHICS

The board and its individual members conduct district business in a fair, respectful, and responsible manner

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Final thoughts

Listen

Be patient

Perspective vs. personal agenda

Public transparency

Ask questions

Learn about policy

Follow board standards

