You’ve Been Elected, Now What?

Mike Swain
Bristol Bay Borough School District
Congratulations on being elected or appointed to your local school board!

We applaud your willingness to dedicate yourself to serve the students in your communities.
As a new board member, where do I start?

What do I need to know?
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?

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
Begin with Orientation

New member orientation – ask your Superintendent and Board President!

AASB provides training:
• Board Room Boot Camp
• First Year Board Member webinar series
• Boardsmanship Academies
Be Prepared – the public is watching!

- **Read** material BEFORE meetings
- **Take notes**
- **Ask questions**
- **Listen**
- **Learn how meetings work**
  - Study **Parliamentary Procedures**
    - ex. Roberts Rules of Orders
      (ex.www.jurassicparliment.com)
Personal Agendas

- Realize that they are a waste of time
- Perspective versus agenda
- You are now a member of a team!
- Listen and learn from others
- Be patient, think of the whole
Listen

• Be professional
• Listen to all sides of an issue
• Be aware of district policies on issues.
• Don’t make promises that “something will get done.”
You CAN and WILL make a difference!

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