

SCHOOL BOARD FAQs

In Illinois, public education is the State's constitutional responsibility. The State delegates to local school boards the authority to govern districts within the parameters set by State Law. Boards are made up of seven (7) community residents elected at large to serve terms of four (4) years without compensation.

What is the role of the Board of Education?

- Clarify the District's purpose
- Represents the community
- Employs a Superintendent
- Approves annual budget
- Sets policy

Is the Superintendent a Board Member?

- No, the superintendent is the chief executive officer of the school district, a professional educator hired by the Board to carry out its goals and to oversee the District's operations.

How are Board Meetings conducted?

- An annual list of Board meeting dates is adopted by the Board, with times and locations of all meetings.
- Each meeting follows an agenda, conducted by the Board President. Agendas are posted publicly 48 hours in advance of each meeting, according to the Open Meetings Act (OMA).

Are Board Meetings Public?

- Board meetings are not public meetings; they are meetings held in public. By law, all Board discussion and deliberation must be conducted in public, except for certain matters which are exempt, and may be discussed in closed session. However, all official Board action (voting) must be taken in open session, in public.

May I Speak at a Board Meeting?

- Visitors may speak at a time specifically set aside during the meeting when visitors are recognized. The Board President will recognize visitors who wish to comment at that time, maintain order during the meeting, and call an end to comments and discussion when appropriate. All visitors are asked to limit their remarks to three minutes.

Will the Board Resolve my Concern?

- The Board will listen to comments. However, Board members have no direct interaction with the public during a regular Board meeting. The Board President acknowledges and thanks the members of the public for their input as appropriate. Once Board members hear all comments, the Board moves onto other business and the audience can no longer participate. The Board is not expected to act or respond to any comments during public comment. The public can contact District administration during regular business hours for help in resolving any concern or issue.

What are Committee Meetings?

- Committee meetings are scheduled as needed. These meetings focus upon specific issues related to District policy, services, finance and curriculum.

How do I contact the Board of Education?

- You may contact the Board of Education by email at BOE@district146.org.