



Iowa Association
of School Boards

The Informed Candidate An Orientation for School Board Candidates

Congratulations on your decision to consider one of the most important responsibilities open to any member of the community! Here is information you should know and understand to be an informed candidate:

1. Begin at the beginning: Our mission statement and what it means for our boards' decision-making.
2. Basic district facts
 - a. District population and boundaries
 - b. Enrollment
 - c. Staffing
 - d. Facilities
3. Key financial facts
 - a. State Foundation Formula
 - b. Funds used by the district
 - c. Funding sources
 - d. Expenditures
 - e. Unspent Balance
 - f. Financial Solvency Ratio
 - g. Summary of key factors impacting budget in this district
4. Board Meetings
 - a. Logistics
 - b. Importance of attendance
 - c. Agenda
 - d. Importance of Preparation
 - e. Meeting in the public view, not the public's meeting
 - f. Sample of a typical board agenda
 - g. Standing committees of the board
5. Effective Board/Superintendent teams, what do we know?
 - a. Focus on educational leadership
 - b. Helping the system work and improve
 - c. Holding the system accountable
 - d. Communicating with and engaging the public
 - e. Exemplifying learning
6. What do board members and superintendents say are the most important characteristics of a good school board member?
7. Questions and comments