



## **Have You Ever Considered Running for the School Board?**

These are challenging times for public education and school boards are seeking men and women who find excitement and satisfaction in confronting tough challenges and working collegially to overcome them. This year, the Lewiston-Porter Central School District will hold elections to fill three board positions. If you have ever considered running for the school board, now is an excellent time to explore the position and the process.

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. It keeps the country's public schools flexible and responsive to the needs of their local communities. A member of a board of education takes on one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to any citizen – helping to plan the education of the state's youth.

## **What makes a good school board member?**

The legal requirements for board membership are few, but qualifications for effective service are many. The most effective board members possess most or all of these attributes:

- **Effective Communicator** – Can describe what he or she wants and describe what others want; a good listener
- **Consensus Builder** – Capable of working toward decisions that all can support and willing to compromise to achieve that goal
- **Community Participant** – Enjoys meeting a variety of people, active in the community, and willing to reach out to the community
- **Decision Maker** – Knows his or her own, as well as others', decision-making styles and can support group decision-making
- **Information Processor** – Can organize priorities and schedules to handle lots of verbal and written information
- **Leader** – Willing to take risks, be supportive of board colleagues, district staff and community
- **Team Player** – Helps promote the board's vision and goals

## **What does a board member do?**

With children always their ultimate focus, school board members act officially only at the board table, working with other board members, to accomplish the following:

- Create a shared vision
- Set student performance standards
- Oversee development of assessment program based on those standards
- Account for student achievement results
- Adopt the annual budget, aligning district resources to improve achievement

- Create a healthy environment for work and learning
- Build strategic partnerships
- Sustain the district's progress through continuous improvement
- Adopt and maintain current policies in written format
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Ratify collective bargaining agreements
- Maintain strong ethical standards

### **How do I become a candidate?**

School board candidates must be at least 18 years old, qualified voters in the school district and able to read and write. They must be residents of their districts continuously for one year before the election. They cannot be employed by the board on which they serve or live in the same household with a family member who is also a member of the same school board.

Lewiston-Porter school board members are elected each May and, with limited exceptions, serve three-year terms. Terms are staggered so all board positions are never open at the same time. To run, a candidate must submit a nominating petition to the school district clerk. This year, the petition must be signed by at least 30 qualified district voters and filed with the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on April 20, which is 30 days prior to the election on May 19. Further details concerning these requirements may be obtained from Elizabeth Bajor, District Clerk, at 716-286-7266, [bajore@lew-port.com](mailto:bajore@lew-port.com) or from the school website at [www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com).

We hope you will consider running for the school board this year and help us provide our students the best education possible.

Lewiston-Porter Board of Education