

School Director Recognition Month

January 2010

WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and

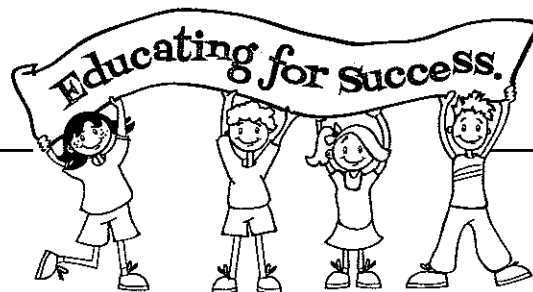
WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and

FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth.



Unanimously approved July 18, 1985
Reaffirmed October 13, 2009
Pennsylvania School Boards Association
Board of Directors
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania



Inspiring Excellence!

January is School Director Recognition Month.

Did you know...

You may be ignoring an important segment of your school community: school directors who contribute many volunteer public service hours to school-related duties and responsibilities. You are encouraged to congratulate, support and salute your local school directors throughout the month of January. Such recognition can be a bright spot in an otherwise difficult year for board members, who need to feel appreciated.

- 4,500 school directors serve Pennsylvania's 500 public school districts; all boards have nine members.
- School director elections are held every two years, on a 5-4 rotation to ensure continuity.
- All board members are elected to four-year terms.
- School directors are elected locally; however, the state constitution delegates to them the responsibility to administer the school system as agents of the General Assembly.
- All serve as volunteers, without pay.
- The "typical" Pennsylvania school director is male, well-educated, married with two or three children attending public schools, and voluntarily devotes 16-20 hours per month to school board business.
- 15% of those serving on school boards in 2009 are retirees.
- 7% of school directors are homemakers, 9% are self-employed or business owners and 7% are office supervisors.
- The number of female school directors was 33% in 2009.
- More than 72% of Pennsylvania school directors have attained a college degree or beyond, an increase from 68% in 1998.
- 21% of Pennsylvania board members have more than 10 years' experience in 2009.
- 54% of all districts involve students at their local board meetings. Of those districts, 97% rate their involvement with students at meetings as satisfactory or highly satisfactory.
- During their meeting, most boards, 54%, allow one public comment period; 45% allow two. Most, 68%, impose time limits on those comment periods.
- In 2009, 88% of districts had cooperative projects with local business and community organizations. 63% have education foundations as a cooperative project.
- Pennsylvania school directors continue to keep adequate school funding at the top of the list of the most important educational concern facing public schools.

