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e-Dition

A New Era of Fiscal Accountability for School Corporations

by Terry E. Spradlin, ISBA Executive Director (tspradlin@isba-ind.org)

School corporation administrators and school board members face a new era of fiscal accountability due to state legislation recently passed. In particular, during the one-day special session of the Indiana General Assembly held on May 14, 2018, House Enrolled Act 1315 (Public Law 213), regarding school corporation financial management passed into law. As a result, school corporations will face increasing scrutiny of its financial conditions via a fiscal and qualitative indicators dashboard that will be published annually. The first indicator dashboard report for every school corporation will be published on or before January 1, 2019.

The financial oversight of school corporations and adoption of annual budgets are core responsibilities of school board members. While the superintendent is responsible for managing the day-to-day finances of their school corporation, school board members must be accountable to ensure the financial solvency of their school corporation. With the issue of financial oversight of school corporations becoming a consistent statewide discussion topic, the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) is working to empower our membership to provide effective leadership in the budget development process.

To support board members in this role, ISBA commissioned the development of a resource guide, "Introduction to Budgeting and Financial Oversight for School Board Members" and an accompanying calendar checklist, available [HERE](#). We have also offered ISBA members webinar (May 23, 2018) and seminar (June 13, 2018) programs to provide training and curriculum on budgeting and financial oversight specific to school board members. A future webinar that will review the resource guide and monthly checklist will be announced soon for a date in August.

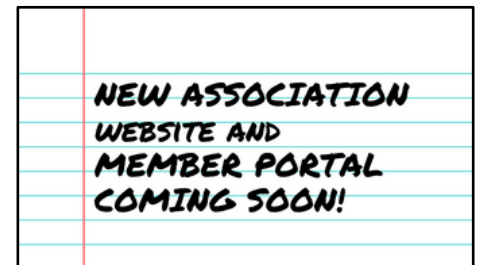
It is important for ISBA members to understand the components of Public Law 2013-2018, (including the role and responsibilities of the Fiscal and Qualitative Indicators Committee), overall school board responsibilities in the budgeting process, and be aware of available tools and resources to guide you in the adoption of a financially-sound annual budget. I will elaborate on each of these items more in my column in the July edition of The Journal.

In the meantime, please be aware that Fiscal and Qualitative Indicators Committee has been established and its first meeting was today. Here is information about future meetings and ways you can follow the work of the committee and communicate with the committee members.

The Fiscal and Qualitative Indicators Committee

A total of six meetings of the committee are scheduled with the last committee meeting set for September 27, 2018. Once the committee has concluded its work to identify the dashboard components, it will present its recommendations to the State Budget Committee in October for approval. The meetings of the committee are open to the public and will be held at One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 900, Indianapolis, IN. 46204, at 2:00 p.m. To interact with committee, email messages can be directed to: Indicators@duab.in.gov and you can sign up to participate in a listserv community "DUABSchoolIndicators" via the DUAB website.

Thank you for your valued membership and your service to your school community. Your leadership is to be commended!



Legacy Leadership

By Dr. Michael T. Adamson, ISBA Director of Board Services
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Ever tried writing your own obituary? For the vast majority of you, I am sure writing a brief synopsis of your life is the last thing on your mind; however, if you can get beyond the morbidity of the exercise, you might find this introspective exercise truly rewarding. For some, what you want to be remembered by is already reinforced by a lifetime of actions that support your best self. For others, the list will represent things yet to be realized, unmet goals, and dreams unfulfilled. However, for most, it will be a blend of both.

The twist to the obit exercise is for you to spend a few moments considering how you want to be remembered as a board member. What qualities of board service, good or bad, would folks remember today if your seat were suddenly vacant? Unlike the obituary

exercise, board members step away from the table for a variety of reasons, with death being the least likely reason. Consequently, former board members find themselves numbered with the masses and their prior service, how they voted, how they supported, criticized, and stood firm or yielded a position, all become the most memorable tenets of their board service.

Are legacies important? Of course! Yet, intentionally deliberating on the details of legacy building are not typical. Some of the more lasting, highly visible tenets of legacies are intangible and the best board member legacies are not brick and mortar, monuments, or having a facility named in honor of a member; they are about personal integrity and an unbiased approach to school governance leadership that is exhibited in every facet of decision-making.

Your legacy consists of what you leave that is received by those who follow you. To leave nothing worth picking up, whether to propagate or emulate, is only evidence of time wasted that can never be recaptured and profited no one. Board members are expected to make a difference, to stay the course and, if needed, to champion change that improves public education in the school corporations they serve. It is about a sacrifice of self to work collaboratively with fellow board members and a superintendent to provide and sustain educational opportunities in your school corporation, sometimes in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

If someone else wrote your legacy today, what would they write? Would their version of your board member legacy mirror what you want to be remembered for? If not, fortunately you have time for a course correction, to refocus your efforts to align your legacy preconception with what it will ultimately be. You may not have a choice regarding whether you will leave a legacy, but you can influence its content. Reflecting on your personal service is a great exercise for ensuring that your efforts today are building the legacy you want to leave.

Election Reminders

By Lisa F. Tanselle, ISBA General Counsel
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While the November general election is a few months away, the period for filing a petition of nomination for school board positions is just a few weeks away. ISBA recently posted some election information on our website. Click [HERE](#) for the complete document. Board members whose terms expire in December of this year and who are interested in running again for a new four-year term must file a petition of nomination between July 25, 2018, and NOON on August 24, 2018, in order to have their name on the ballot. In addition to the petition of nomination, candidates for school board must also file a statement of economic interests. This statement must be filed simultaneously with the petition of nomination or the petition of nomination will be rejected by the county election officials. Both of these forms are available at the Secretary of State's office, the Internet website of the Secretary of State, and county election offices.

Required Signatures

Generally speaking, the petition of nomination must be signed by at least 10 registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the school

corporation. However, some school board candidates must secure more than 10 signatures. For example, candidates running for school board positions in the School City of Hammond, Lake Station Community Schools, and Gary Community School Corporation must have at least 100 registered voters sign their petitions of nomination. It is very important for all candidates to check with county election officials to determine the number of required signatures.

Qualifications

Candidates for school board positions must be registered voters of the school corporation or the election district they seek to represent. Candidates must also have resided within the boundaries of the school corporation for at least one year prior to the election. If a candidate is seeking to represent a specific district of the school corporation, the candidate must have resided within that election district for at least one year prior to the election. Persons who have been convicted of a felony are not eligible to run for a school board seat, unless for example the conviction has been

reversed, vacated, or expunged. Candidates do not have to own property within the school corporation in order to run for school board. Additionally, any individual elected to the school board cannot hold another lucrative office and cannot also be an employee of the school corporation.

Campaigning Issues

Anyone running for school board must be aware of the laws regarding campaign contributions and campaign expenses. Generally speaking, anyone who receives more than \$500 in contributions or spends more than \$500 in campaign expenses must have a principal committee. Campaign materials must include a statement as to who paid for or authorized the advertisement except in cases of bumper stickers, pens, buttons, and similar small items.

For additional information on running for school board positions, please contact your county election officials.



Graduation Pathways - Option to Use in Lieu of Graduation Examination with School Board Approval

by Julie M. Slavens, ISBA Staff Attorney (jslavens@isba-ind.org)

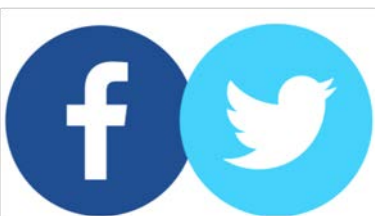
The Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted the Graduation Pathways in December 2017. A state law passed last year required the SBOE to establish graduation pathways requirements. See IC 20-32-4-1.5 – the Graduation Pathways law. During the 2018 Indiana General Assembly, a bill was passed clarifying when these pathways take effect. HEA 1426, P.L. 192-2018, amended the Graduation Pathways law, making the requirements effective beginning with the class of 2023, the grade 8 students during the 2018-2019 school year. Students in grade 9 and above are subject to the current graduation requirements, which include passing the graduation examination.

HEA 1426 also added a provision to the Graduation Pathways law. The additional provision allows schools to “voluntarily elect” to use a graduation pathway adopted by the SBOE as a graduation requirement instead of the current graduation examination requirement. See IC 20-32-4-1.5(f). (The Act may be found [HERE](#).) This new law provides school corporations with an opportunity and the flexibility to provide students an option to graduate without taking the current graduation examination. Under the new law, a school may use one of the graduation pathways for students graduating prior to the 2022-2023 school year who have not or are not likely to pass the graduation examination or who do not want to take the graduation examination. Some of the pathways that can be used in lieu of passing the graduation examination requirement for these students to graduate are:

1. meeting either the ACT or the SAT college-ready benchmark score;
2. earning a minimum score to qualify for placement into one of the United States military branches on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB);
3. receiving a state and industry-recognized credential or certification;
4. completing a state, federal, or industry-recognized apprenticeship;
5. earning a C average or higher in at least three courses in any of the following types of courses – Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Credit, or Cambridge International; **or**
6. completing a locally-created pathway approved by the SBOE.

(The entire SBOE-approved Graduation Pathway requirements may be found [HERE](#).)

Because using one of the Graduation Pathways as an alternative to the graduation examination is a graduation requirement that is not required by the SBOE for current high school students, it is an additional graduation requirement. Any school principal or administrator who chooses to use this option for its current high school students’ graduation requirements must have it approved by the school board, as by law the school board must establish any additional graduation requirements. The board may approve the use of one or more graduation pathway in general for any student not passing the graduation examination or who does not want to take the graduation examination and/or may provide criteria required to be met by graduating students who use this option, i.e., failed the graduation examination on their first try. If a locally created pathway is used, the local school board must approve it and it must be approved by the SBOE before it can be used as a graduation requirement. Additional information and resources regarding the Graduation Pathways requirements may be found at <https://www.in.gov/sboe/> under the What’s New heading on this webpage.



ISBA is on Social Media!

ISBA has joined the Facebook and Twitter worlds! Be sure to follow us, as we’ll be posting exclusive content on our pages!

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/IndianaSchoolBoards/>

Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/isbanews>

UPCOMING ISBA EVENTS

7.27.2018—ISBA/IAPSS Collective Bargaining

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

ISBA in the News

- [Ball State provides names of 88 Muncie School Board candidates \(Muncie Star Press\)](#)
- [Beyond Brownsburg: How Indiana schools treat transgender students](#)



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