

Legacy Leadership

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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.