

# Welcome

*The webinar will begin momentarily.*





# Running for the School Board 101

## *Essential Tips for Candidates*

An IASB Webinar  
Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025



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## Maximize Learning Through Engagement

- **Quick Polls!**
- **Chat Feature:** Share your questions as they arise! We will monitor and answer them along the way.

## Who is participating?

1. I am thinking about running for the school board.
2. I have decided to run for the school board.
3. I am not running; I'm learning about work of the school board.
4. I am a current school board member.
5. I am a superintendent.
6. I am a school business manager and/or a board secretary.



# Goals for Today

Exploring:

- Authority of the Board
- The Role of the Board
- District Finances
- Time Commitments
- Steps to Learn About the District
- Filing as a Candidate



## Authority as a Whole Body

Board works as a whole, at the board table.

Deliberations & decisions  
“in the view of the public.”

Common misperceptions  
about board authority.



## Authority of the Board— As a Whole Body

Give yourself a chance to learn before the board votes.

The board's authority exists when deciding as a body.

You are only one vote.





# Let's Talk: Authority of the Board Insights & Advice



**People have already asked me to promise I will vote a certain way on a specific issue or topic.**

1. Yes
2. No



# Tip—Learn About the Role of the Board



## Maintain “Big Picture” View

Board role—Governance.

Superintendent role—Management.

Serve as a governance team with the superintendent—while having different duties.

Common misperceptions about role of the board.



# Let's Talk: Learning About Role of the Board

## Insights & Advice



**Which statement do you believe reflects community members' general understanding about the role of the board?**

1. Most community members understand the role of the board.
2. Some community members understand the role of the board.
3. A few community members understand the role of the board.
4. This is something I am just learning. I do not know how well community members understand the role of the board.



# Tip—Understand District Finances



## Big Considerations

**Enrollment:** A big influencer—  
What are the trends?

**Silos:** Separate “pots” of funding.

**July 1–June 30:** The district’s  
fiscal year.

It takes time to learn. There  
is support.

Be persistent. You are not alone.



# Let's Talk: Understanding District Finances

## Insights & Advice





**The following reflects my level of understanding about the district student enrollment trends over the past few years.**

1. I have a good level of understanding about enrollment trends and could describe trends to a neighbor.
2. I have some understanding of enrollment trends but need to learn more; I would not be very confident in describing trends to a neighbor.
3. I only have a little awareness of enrollment trends and need to learn a lot more; I would not be able to tell a neighbor what the enrollment trends are like.

# Tip—Consider the Time Commitment



## Board Work—More Than Most People Realize

Beyond 1–2 meetings per month.

Committees and other obligations.

Review materials before board meetings.

Engage in continued learning with IASB.



# **Let's Talk: Considering Time Commitments & Expectations**

**Insights & Advice**



## **What have you done or plan to do to learn more about time commitments and expectations of being a board member?**

1. Talk with a current or former school board member(s).
2. Talk with the superintendent.
3. Talk with the board secretary/school business manager.
4. Attend a school board meeting.
5. Other.



# Tip - Learn About the School District



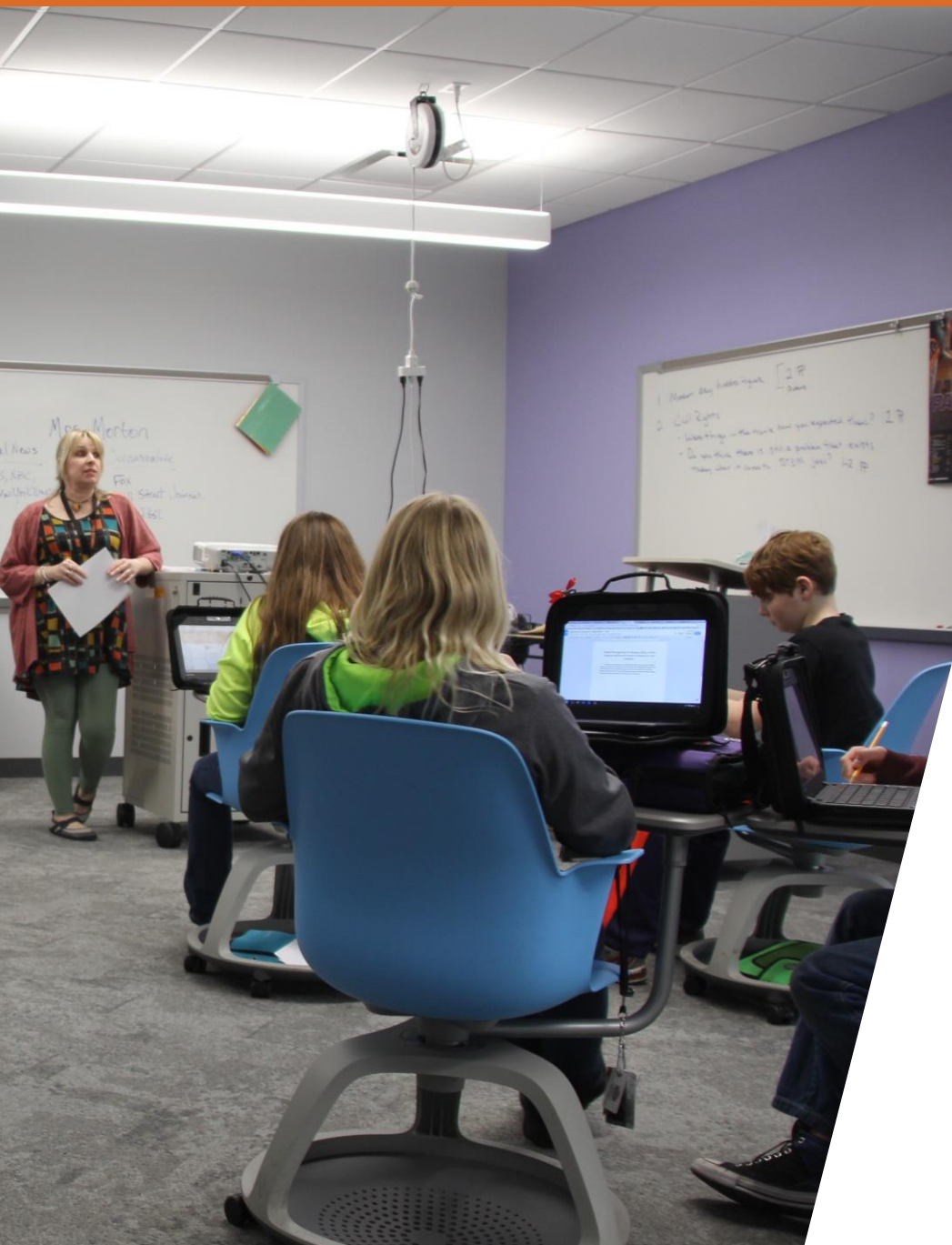
## Priority Initiatives & Big Picture District Information

Guiding documents: vision, mission & goals/priorities

Key initiatives (teaching, learning, programs, and facilities)

State of the district—other areas: staffing trends, district boundaries, etc.





# Let's Talk: Learning About the School District Insights & Advice



# Tip—Filing as a Candidate



## Getting Started: Filing 101

### Key Dates for Filing Nomination Papers

- Aug. 25: First date.
- Sept. 18: Last date.

### Where to Learn More

- IASB School Board Elections Webpage
- IASB Candidate Webinar on 9/3

[www.ia-sb.org/school-board-elections](http://www.ia-sb.org/school-board-elections)





# Let's Talk: Filing as a Candidate

## Insights & Advice





# Candidate Webinars—Register Today!



**Legal & Ethical Campaigns for the School Board**  
**Wednesday, Sept 3, Noon–1 p.m.**

**The Building Blocks of Financial Advocacy**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 24, Noon–1 p.m.**

**Student Learning: Do Boards Really Make a Difference?**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 15, Noon–1 p.m.**

[www.ia-sb.org/school-board-elections](http://www.ia-sb.org/school-board-elections)

# Mark Your Calendars!



## **IASB BoardCon**

**Nov. 19–21**

*Iowa Events Center, Des Moines*

**Pre-Convention Workshop: Ready, Set, Govern!**  
**New Board Member Onboarding Workshop**

**Nov. 19**

*Iowa Events Center, Des Moines*

Visit [www.ia-sb.org/boardcon](http://www.ia-sb.org/boardcon) for more information

# Mark Your Calendars!



**Ready, Set, Govern! Regional Workshops**

**16 locations around the state**

*December and January*

Your district will cover the cost for you to attend the workshop.

Visit [www.ia-sb.org/rsg](http://www.ia-sb.org/rsg) for more information.



## QUESTIONS?



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# *Vision & Voice for Public Education*

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