



Sample districts activities

Each year, OSBA asks school districts to share their successful board recognition events. Here are a number of ideas that worked throughout Ohio:

- * **Cambridge City** student representatives to the board planned and conducted a recognition program that included a reception following a board meeting in which each board member received a fruit basket and an OSBA certificate to honor their contributions. They also were treated to a cake, and the event was covered with a story and photo in a local newspaper.
- * **Canal Winchester Local (Franklin)** Board of Education members were honored by State Rep. **Marian Harris** (D-Columbus) at a board meeting.
- * **Deer Park Community City**, which in 2008 had students portray board members as superheroes in colorful drawings, took another unique approach for 2009. Students in grades four through six were asked by their art teacher to work in teams to create shadow boxes depicting each board member in a role they have taken to help enhance our schools. They had everything from board President **Donna Farrell** in the role of teaching our students about banking and finances to Vice President **Thomas Griswold** depicted on a track with kids participating in a walk-a-thon done every year in our district. Each board member also received a slide show that she created using photos of the board members working collaboratively alongside photos of students also working as a team. The slide show was accompanied by the song "Thank You," by **Natalie Merchant**.
- * **Elyria City** invited some of its kindergartners from Elyria's full-day Kindergarten Village to recite to the board their "Positive Pledge" (Elyria kindergartners begin each day with the pledge, a message of respect and self-acceptance, and a promise to learn every day). After reciting their pledge, the children presented each board member with their very own "Positive Pledge" signed by the children in attendance and their classmates.
- * **Gahanna-Jefferson City** hosted a Board Appreciation Breakfast at Lincoln High School for its board. Members were entertained by the Lincoln High School String Quartet and the Lincoln High School Chorale. State Rep. **Nancy Garland** (D-Gahanna) attended the breakfast as a special guest.
- * Students from each of **Medina City's** five elementary schools made a poster-size thank-you card for each member. Students from those schools personally thanked a board member while presenting the cards. The district also recognized board members in its newsletter.
- * **Warren County Career Center** board members, along with other board members from across the county, gathered at a Warren County commissioners meeting to be honored for their service to the community. The commissioners issued a School Board Recognition Month

proclamation for each school district. The career center's board members also were recognized with a photo and article in the district newsletter.

* **West Geauga Local (Geauga)** feted its board members at a School Board Recognition Month reception. Students presented board members handmade posters of appreciation, personal bookmarks, homemade cookies and cheers.

* **Allen East Local (Allen)** board members received OSBA certificates and heard a proclamation read by Treasurer **Rhonda Zimmerly** encouraging "all citizens to publicly and privately thank the school board members from all school districts serving this community for their dedicated service to our children."

* **Barberton City** Superintendent **John Hall** recognized members as "an outstanding board of education" that has a synergy, with the board being better than the individual parts, which is the goal of any team. Treasurer **Ryan Pendleton** pointed out that much of the public does not know about all the work board members do behind the scenes and the countless hours and weekends they put in. "I think the Barberton community should commend you for that," Pendleton said. "You've done it for the good of the community and the good of the children."

* **Belpre City** honored board members with certificates, thanks and praise. "These people unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education," Superintendent **Harry Fleming** said. "Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part."

* **Brown Local (Carroll)** board members were presented with certificates of appreciation and letters of thanks written by fourth-grade students. "The student letters were definitely the most entertaining and enjoyable," Superintendent **Connie Griffin** said.

* **Bucyrus City** Superintendent **Todd Nichols** presented certificates to board members and Bucyrus Mayor **Dan Ross** proclaimed January School Board Recognition Month in Bucyrus. "I urge everyone to thank all school board members in all of our area school districts for their hard work and dedication to our schools," Ross said.

* **Cory-Rawson Local (Hancock)** board members were presented with framed certificates and embroidered Cory-Rawson jackets. Members also received a personal thank you and handshake from Superintendent **Jay Arbaugh**, and photos were taken for the district Web site, newsletter and yearbook.

* **Delaware City** Willis Intermediate School Drama Club students offered dramatic presentations of poems to recognize board members.

* **East Clinton Local (Clinton)** recognized the board with a letter from Superintendent **Gary R. West** on its Web site. "They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students," West wrote.

* **Fairborn City** board members were given a certificate to honor their service and the district sent press releases to several local newspapers announcing School Board Recognition Month.

* **Fayetteville-Perry Local (Brown)** board members received certificates. Superintendent **Roy Hill** also issued a press release personally thanking the board for its dedicated service.

* **Franklin City** Superintendent **Douglas Lantz** presented plaques to each board member to express appreciation and recognition of their service to the community.

* **Fremont City** staff and students wrote thank-you cards, which were read to board members during a board meeting. Members also received framed portraits of themselves drawn by sixth-graders. Superintendent Dr. **Traci McCaudy** further recognized the board in a letter to the

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community posted on the district's Web site, "I commend our board members for their collaborative efforts in order to make Fremont City Schools an exemplary school district for our children."

* **Georgetown EV** board members received certificates and personal thanks from Superintendent **Tony Dunn**. "I am humbled to work with them," Dunn said. "They are the best board I have ever worked with."

* **Harrison Hills City** district showed its appreciation by presenting each member with a certificate and a combination stadium blanket/carry-all. "We realized how difficult your job can be," Superintendent **Jim Drexler** told the board. "We appreciate all that you do."

* **Highland Local (Medina)** Superintendent **Catherine Aukerman** presented certificates to the board saying, "All the people on this board go above and beyond. It is my pleasure just to say 'thank you.'" Aukerman also wrote a letter to the editor personally recognizing each board member.

* **Indian Valley Local (Tuscarawas)** Superintendent **Randall Cadle** gave members certificates and a small token of gratitude.

* **Licking Valley Local (Licking)** board members were recognized with certificates and an editorial in a local newspaper.

* **North Central Local (Wayne)** board members received recognition at a board meeting, in the local paper and in the staff newsletter. In the newspaper recognition, Superintendent **Larry Acker** wrote, "... I find often times we just need some old-fashioned 'common sense' advice. Their ears are open, their minds are clear and their wisdom from lessons learned in the game of life is invaluable to each of us."

* **Put-in-Bay Local (Ottawa)** board members received certificates, along with thank you cards from faculty and students, and also displayed the OSBA poster, a picture of board members and all the cards at the school entrance. The local newspaper ran an article thanking board members and listing the many positive changes they have brought about in the district.

* **Southern Local (Columbiana)** board received plaques and personal thanks from Superintendent **James Herring**.

* **Springfield Local (Lucas)** Superintendent **Kathryn Hott** and student representative to the board **Dylan Moore** presented certificates. The presentation was featured in a photo in a local newspaper. The board was also honored on the district's Web site.

* **Toronto City** honored board members with certificates and dinner.

* **Wellston City** board was featured in an article and photo in a local newspaper.

* **Westerville City's** Parent Council presented board members with plaques of appreciation for their service to the district and community.

* **Woodmore Local (Sandusky)** board was treated to certificates, snacks and a framed picture. Superintendent **Jane Garling** said that some staff members sent thanks, while others attended the celebration and read notes of appreciation for the board's support and commitment. "I am very fortunate," Garling said. "I have five super members that give of their time freely and always do their homework to be fully prepared. They are here for all students!"

* **Wooster City** board members received certificates and were recognized on the district Web site.

Please note: This information was compiled from articles in the OSBA Journal and school staff mentioned may no longer be in the districts.

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