



School Board Recognition Month tips

Tips for school administrators

- * Host a surprise dinner banquet for board members and invite the school staff, community leaders and members of the news media. Coordinate this activity with the board members' families. Encourage staff to prepare a nice "roast" of each board member.
- * Make bookmarks featuring the school board. Include board member photos; the district name, address and phone number; board meeting dates, times and locations; the district's mission statement; and a brief "thank you" to the board for its support of student reading. Distribute these bookmarks to schools, libraries, boys' and girls' clubs, recreation centers and bookstores.
- * Arrange for a city or county official to proclaim January School Board Recognition Month. A sample proclamation is included in this kit.
- * Feature recent school board accomplishments in the January district and school newsletters, and in the staff bulletin.
- * Profile board members in the January district and school newsletters and staff bulletin. Include information on their families, careers, hobbies and volunteer activities.
- * Add a special school board recognition "thank you" to the district's Internet home page.
- * Design, order and distribute special bumper or window stickers. Include the school district colors and logo in the design. Possible slogans are:
 - Putting the "public" in public schools
 - Celebrate leadership!
 - Elected to work for our kids! Thank you school board
 - January is School Board Recognition Month!
 - Our school board is empowering students to excel
 - Our school board is great!
 - School boards lead, so students achieve!
 - School boards make a powerful difference
 - School boards share because they care!
 - School boards work!
 - School boards: Citizens leading their community's schools
 - School boards: Helping kids climb higher
 - School boards: Leading the way for education!
 - School boards: Making a difference for children
 - School boards: Serving children, representing you
 - School boards: Serving our children

School boards: Working for kids and their communities
Thank a school board member today!

Tips for staff, students and parents

- * Invite board members to a brunch cooked by staff. Encourage board members to invite spouses and other friends or relatives who support them in their roles as board members to this special brunch.
- * Display board appreciation posters, cards and banners in community businesses.
- * Arrange for a student choir to sing to the board at its monthly meeting.
- * Donate a book or set of books to the school library, dedicated to the board, and include board members' names and dates of service on a recognition label within each book.
- * Present a variety of practical appreciation tokens of gratitude. These might include lapel pins, pens, desk accessories, mugs, bumper stickers, etc.
- * Invite board members to a school assembly to entertain them with a student-produced skit demonstrating what a school board does. Give the board members a round of applause.
- * Have students write them notes of appreciation.
- * Have culinary arts, or family and consumer science students bake a cake and serve at a recognition ceremony.
- * Have students assemble a survival kit for the school board. The kit could include such things as a battery (to keep you going and going), tissues (for parents with issues), rubber bands (to stretch the budget), two cotton balls (for those never-ending phone calls), pencils and erasers (to make those little mistakes go away), antacids (for the occasional day that you are up the proverbial creek), adhesive bandages (to fix the minor district problems), sticky notes (to help you remember all those details) a fan (to keep you from overheating) and aspirin (for those headaches caused by the stress of the position).
- * Ask elementary students to draw pictures of what they think school board members do. Mail these to your school board members, post them in the room where the board meets or invite board members to your school to see the art display. This not only shows appreciation, but also usually gives board members a chuckle.
- * Invite board members to a PTA meeting and publicly thank them for their service.
- * Invite board members to a school basketball game and arrange a special ceremony to honor them at halftime.
- * Ask each board member to answer the question, "Why do you serve on the school board?" Then use the quotes in stories or make a poster out of the quote and display during a recognition ceremony.
- * Make board members the guests of honor at a school carnival or festival.

Tips for community groups, service clubs and businesses

- * Feature one or two board members each week of January in the local newspaper. Include a photo of the board member in a school setting, a short biography, and his or her philosophy about school board work and the importance of education. Suggest that the education reporter write a feature story about the person who has served the longest on the school board or a school board member who attended your local schools.
- * Ask your local newspaper to write an editorial recognizing the many volunteer hours school board members give to your community. Provide lots of information for this editorial.
- * Encourage businesses to sponsor radio and TV public service announcements (PSAs) acknowledging the work of the school board and reviewing its responsibilities.

Ohio School Boards Association

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- * Host a fun and recreational event for board members and their families. A local motel/hotel or recreation center might donate the facilities needed for such an event. This thanks board members' families for their support and acknowledges that serving on a school board takes time away from family activities.
- * Display an appreciation banner across a major street or highway where it will be seen by lots of residents of the school district.
- * Create and place Burma Shave-style board appreciation signs along busy streets or highways entering and exiting the community. Be sure to check with local government agencies about regulations for signs along public roads.
- * Send each board member a certificate for a free cup of special coffee from a local, popular coffee shop. Accompany it with a note that says, "You deserve a break!"
- * Set up a recognition corner or area in the public library to exhibit memorabilia from past school boards.
- * Arrange for a florist to donate a single rose for each board member and put it at his or her place at a board meeting as a thank you for their service.
- * Make service clubs in the area aware that January is School Board Recognition Month, and encourage them to show public appreciation for their members who serve on school boards.