



# SAMPLE DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

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*Each year, OSBA asks school districts to share their successful board recognition events. Here are a number of ideas that worked throughout Ohio in 2023.*

Students at Bay Village City went all out to show their appreciation for the board members who support their success during School Board Recognition Month in January.

During a board meeting, seventh-graders Jane Fanter, Esli Gjeci and Owen Mendez and Media Specialist teacher Melissa Wolf gave board members tokens of appreciation, including a bag, pencil case, mini cutting board and wood flower arrangement, made and personalized in the district's MakerSpace. Second-grade students in teacher Anne Hart's class at Normandy Elementary School made thank-you notes for the board members, and Renee Duffy, Bay High School senior class president, shared her gratitude on behalf of the student body: "I would like to thank the Bay Village Board of Education for providing students with countless opportunities to succeed in our future," she said.

Students in Licking Heights Local (Licking) high school's Fab Lab created custom-made signs to honor their board members. Elementary school students gave board members thank-you cards and "survival kits" of symbolic gifts, including a battery so they could recharge and a fan to keep cool in stressful situations. Superintendent Kevin Miller presented a resolution in honor of School Board Recognition Month that praised the board members for serving the community with integrity and honor and their "commitment to our children's futures."

Steubenville City board members were treated to a breakfast at East Garfield Elementary School, where select students gave a brief description of their daily activities and learning opportunities. Board members received appreciation gifts, including magnets made with the school's 3D printer, as well as coffee and donuts.

Crestview Local (Van Wert) Superintendent Kathy Mollenkopf recognized board members with a proclamation during a board meeting, pointing out that they set the direction for the district by establishing policies and procedures that govern operations while ensuring staff are vested in the district's mission and goals. "I encourage all employees and members of the Crestview community to thank these board of education members for their service and representation of the district's motto, 'Tradition invested in the future,'" she said.

Revere Local (Summit) board members were recognized at a January board meeting and received a goodie bag that included Revere-branded socks and a note stating that the board members "knock 'R' socks off!"

At the Findlay City board's January meeting, Mayor Christina Muryn presented a proclamation in appreciation of the board's work. Students in the district's



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preschool gave each board member a handmade necklace and card, and the leadership team from Glenwood Middle School presented board members with thank-you notes and chocolates.

Delaware City Superintendent Heidi Kegley thanked board members for “the amazing service” they provide to the school district, students and community to make the district successful.

Maumee City board members enjoyed a performance by the high school string orchestra at the board’s Jan. 23 meeting. In addition, the local newspaper ran features on each board member, highlighting their favorite part of being a board member and why the community was important to them.

In a column submitted to The Clermont Sun, West Clermont Local (Clermont) Superintendent Natasha Adams thanked the district’s board members for “the work that our board is doing to help West Clermont commit to excellence with every learner, every day, every way.”

Chardon Local (Geauga) board members received tokens of appreciation, including a personalized Hilltopper clipboard and mug, and notes signed by students. Superintendent Dr. Michael P. Hanlon Jr. thanked board members for their commitment to public service, noting that much of their work is voluntary and “each of our members is committed to promoting success for all students and to advocating (for) our schools within the community.”

Cuyahoga Falls City celebrated its board members throughout January by featuring one board member each week on the district’s social media platforms. Board members also received artwork designed by DeWitt Elementary School students under the guidance of art teacher Kat Skoff.

Other districts that shared recognition posts through social media or profiled their board members on their district website included Avon Lake City, Avon Local (Lorain), Butler County ESC, Champion Local (Trumbull), Columbus City, Copley-Fairlawn City, Crestline EV, Cuyahoga Heights Local (Cuyahoga), Dublin City, ESC of Central Ohio, Great Oaks Career Campuses, Greenfield EV, Hudson City, Independence Local (Cuyahoga), Lebanon City, Liberty Center Local (Henry), Mad River Local (Montgomery), Monroeville Local (Huron), Northwest Ohio ESC, Struthers City, Sylvania City, Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas), Weathersfield Local (Trumbull), Warrensville Heights City, Wellington EV, Whitehall City, Yellow Springs EV and Zanesville City.

Westlake City feted its board members at their monthly meeting, where Mayor Dennis Clough presented a proclamation honoring the board. Each board member also received an individual Bundt cake as a token of appreciation.

In recognizing the ESC of Eastern Ohio’s board members for their service, Superintendent Dr. Traci Hostetler said, “They are the voice of the community



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in a school district. They ensure all aspects of their respective districts are designed to best serve its community.”

Benjamin Logan Local (Logan) middle school students gave each board member a kiln-fired clay tile with a message thanking them for investing their time into the students’ lives. The high school provided artisanal, handmade cookies to complement the caramel apples gifted to the board members by the district. In a video created by the elementary school staff, students shared their ideas of what a board member does and thanked the board members for their service.

Cincinnati Public Superintendent Iranetta Wright recognized each board member with certificates during the “Superintendent Update” at the January board meeting. Board members were featured individually in social media posts that highlighted their backgrounds and accomplishments, including the board’s newly elected officers and committee positions.

Fairfield Local (Highland) middle school students interviewed the board members for a feature article in the middle school’s newspaper. Board members received paintings titled “Starry Night, Fairfield Night,” created by elementary school students, and a 3D key chain designed and printed by the high school STEAM class.

During the East Palestine City board meeting, Superintendent Chris Neifer asked that the community join the district in recognizing the “dedication and hard work” of its board members. “This group works tirelessly to maintain an education system that meets the needs of both today’s and tomorrow’s children,” he said.

Kings Local (Warren) asked the families of its board members to share what their service means to them. Their responses were incorporated into a video honoring the board during School Board Recognition Month. The video is posted at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm-recap](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sbrm-recap).

Jefferson County Vocational School board members were treated to a recognition dinner prepared by students in the culinary arts program.

Student artwork and appreciation postcards from teachers and staff were used to decorate the room for the Deer Park Community City board’s January meeting, where board members were honored with a resolution recognizing their work and feted with cake.

In an editorial in the Times Reporter, Dover City Superintendent Karie McCrate recognized the district’s board members for their dedication, noting that each board member is involved in the community and gives their time by having discussions, planning for and attending meetings and broadening their knowledge of public education. “Their love for our students and for making our community the best it can be is evident each day,” she wrote.



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Third-graders shared thank-you notes with Patrick Henry Local (Henry) board members during their board meeting.

Fairborn City board members were honored with framed recognition certificates during their board meeting. The district also submitted a press release to a local newspaper and shared posts honoring its board on the district's website and social media platforms.

While honoring Hillsboro City's board members, Superintendent Tim Davis thanked them for their service and their dedication to the district. "I just want to thank you for all the work that you put in. ... It's a thankless job, and I do appreciate everything that you do," he said.

East Muskingum Local (Muskingum) students, including the board members' children and grandchildren, surprised the board with appreciation gifts at its January meeting.

While presenting certificates to the Galion City Board of Education, Superintendent Jennifer Lynn Allarding thanked board members "for the time they selflessly give so that our students receive the best possible education and are prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow."

Other districts presenting certificates or recognizing their boards included: Ada EV, Alliance City, Bellefontaine City, Buckeye Hills Career Center, Conneaut Area City, East Liverpool City, Edison Local (Jefferson), Fairfield City, Holgate Local (Henry), Indian Creek Local (Jefferson), Leetonia EV, Lincolnview Local (Van Wert), Martins Ferry City, Mid-Ohio ESC, Mississinawa Valley Local (Darke), North College Hill City, North Ridgeville City, North Union Local (Union), Ohio Hi-Point Career Center, Perrysburg EV, Reynoldsburg City, Sebring Local (Mahoning), St. Clairsville-Richland City, Trumbull County ESC, Twin Valley Community Local (Preble), Twinsburg City, Van Wert City, Warren Local (Washington), Washington Court House City, West Branch Local (Mahoning) and Woodridge Local (Summit).