

B-42 BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The school board in modern America faces a difficult set of challenges. It must fashion a quality educational program to prepare students for an unpredictable tomorrow. It must decide complex issues of policy and principle. It must oversee the prudent management of our community's extensive school facility. It is right and proper for the public to expect its elected board members to demonstrate high qualities of leadership as they deal with affairs of the public schools. It is also right and proper for a school board to expect public support for its efforts to enlarge the horizons and abilities of its members.

The Board of Education places a high priority on the importance of a planned and continuing program of in-service education for its members. The central purpose of the program is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of public school governance in our community. The Board shall plan specific in-service activities designed to assist Board members in their efforts to improve their skills as members of a policy-making body; to expand their knowledge about trends, issues, and new ideas affecting the continued welfare of our local schools; and to deepen their insights into the nature of leadership in a modern democratic society.

Funds shall be budgeted annually to support the program. Individual Board members shall be reimbursed for out-of-pocket costs incurred through participation in approved activities. The Board, as a whole, shall retain the authority to approve or disapprove the participation of members in planned activities. The public shall be kept informed through the news media about the Board's continuing in-service education and about the programs anticipated for short and long-range benefits to our schools.

The Board regards the following as the kinds of activities and services appropriate for implementing this policy:

1. Participation in school board conferences, workshops, and conventions held by the state and national school boards associations.
2. District-sponsored training sessions for Board members.
3. Subscriptions to publications addressed to the concerns of Board members.

SOURCE: Plainfield Community School Corporation
Plainfield, IN

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