

Welcome

The Elkhart Community Schools Board of School Trustees welcomes you to this public meeting. We encourage and appreciate the attendance of parents, students, staff members, and other interested members of the community. The information presented and the decisions made at this meeting affect our children's education, and in the long run the future of children, schools, and community. Thank you for attending.

What is the Board of School Trustees?

The Board of School Trustees of the Elkhart Community Schools (ECS), commonly called the school board, is composed of seven members elected by registered voters living within the boundaries of ECS. School boards are a creation of the Indiana legislature and are charged with providing educational opportunities for the children in the school corporation. The Board of School Trustees maintains a membership in the Indiana School Boards Association.

What is the main function of the School Board?

The Board's main function is to oversee the operation of the school's corporation and to promote continuous student improvement.

What is done at School Board meetings?

The Board of School Trustees is responsible for developing the policies by which our school system is operated. It acts upon recommendations made by the superintendent and staff on a wide variety of matters including hiring and developing personnel, developing a budget, authorizing the spending of funds, review and revision of curriculum, and other school issues. No one person or groups of persons may act in the name of the board. For an item to become official, a majority of the board in official session must vote in favor of the motion. A quorum of at least four board members must be present to conduct official business.

When are School Board meetings held?

The Board of School Trustees typically meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Most meetings are held in the board room of the J. C. Rice Educational Services Center, 2720 California Road, at 7:00 p.m. During the school year, the Board makes arrangements to meet in school buildings. The schedule of meeting locations is posted at the Educational Service Center, each school and on the district's website: www.elkhart.k12.in.us

Executive sessions, not open to the public, are usually held prior to the regular meetings. The topics at these meetings are limited by law. Examples include personnel matters, negotiations, acquiring land, and litigation matters. Any matter discussed at an executive session is confidential and must be voted upon in the regular public meeting in order to become official.

Agenda for meetings

Agendas for public meetings are available for your information. The agenda contains the items to be considered at the meeting. Board members receive the agenda and supporting documents well in advance of each meeting so they can study the materials and be prepared to make decisions. The Board normally will not consider items which are not included on the agenda.

May members of the community speak at School Board meetings?

- You may speak about any agenda item at the time it is discussed. (Following Board comments, you may indicate your desire to address the board by raising your hand.)
- Non-agenda items may be discussed at the end of the meeting. (To show your interest and intent to speak concerning a topic not on the agenda, please fill out the attached form and present it to the recording secretary.)

What are the rules for speaking?

- use the microphone
- announce your name before speaking
- limit your comments to an appropriate timeframe

While comments are welcome, no action will be taken at this meeting on non-agenda items. The Board may ask questions and refer the matter to the administration for further study.

The Board president may find it necessary to limit the time of individual speakers and may request that groups choose a single spokesperson. The Board wishes the public to be advised, on certain occasions, time may be of the essence for Board consideration and action. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to eliminate or severely restrict the time allowed for public participation.

Because of the Family Rights and Privacy Act, the Board will not publicly discuss personnel and personal student issues. Members of the community wishing to address personnel or personal student issues should contact the building principal where the issue is of concern. If there is still a need to address the issue further, the member of the community should contact the Superintendent.

How can a patron obtain information about the schools?

If you cannot obtain the information you need regarding Elkhart Community Schools on the corporation's website, www.elkhart.k12.in.us, contact any school principal or the Superintendent's office.