



Mukilteo School District

Your Mukilteo School Board: Who are they and what do they do?

The School Board:

The Mukilteo School Board is a group of five School District residents who are elected by the voters in the community to oversee the operation of the Mukilteo School District. The primary responsibilities of the School Board are to:

- Establish policy for the School District.
- Adopt the School District's annual operating budgets.
- Hire and evaluate the performance of the Superintendent, who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the School District.
- Employ school personnel as recommended by the Superintendent.
- Adopt the School District's Mission Statement and goals.
- Exercise other powers that are established by State and federal law, by court decisions, and by administrative rules adopted by the State's Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education.

While the State Constitution places the responsibility of funding public education squarely on the State Legislature, State law gives School Boards broad discretionary powers to adopt policies that "promote the education and daily physical activity" of K-12 students and "the effective, efficient or safe management and operation of the School District."

How does one get elected to the School Board?

The Mukilteo School District service area is divided into five Director districts, each with a nearly equal population. Each of the five School Board members must reside within a different Director district. To be eligible, a person also must be a citizen of the United States and a registered voter. Election to the School Board is done by the voters within the entire School District, not just the area where he or she lives. School Board members serve four-year terms in office.

What is involved in being a School Board member?

Those on the School Board will say that, in addition to attending School Board meetings, a good School Board member must keep informed about local, State and federal education issues. They often attend sporting events and other school activities, volunteer in schools, and attend PTA meetings in order to stay connected and visible.

What kind of authority does a School Board member have?

All Board actions must be approved by a majority of the Board members, which means, as an individual, a School Board member has no authority over the day-to-day running of the District or its schools. Individual School Board members do not direct or evaluate the work of staff members and they don't have the power to change what is happening at a school. In other words, an individual School Board member can't hire a teacher, fire a coach, change the math curriculum, get an athlete on a team, or receive special treatment for

his or her own children. The authority of the School Board instead comes from the collective power of a majority of its members.

How often does the School Board meet?

The School Board typically meets twice a month, with a few exceptions during holidays and breaks. The regular business meetings are held at the School District's Administrative Center, 9401 Sharon Drive in South Everett, beginning at 6 p.m., or 4:30 p.m. during the summer. During the school year, the School Board also will hold 4:30 p.m. dialogue sessions at a school building roughly once each month. The times and locations of all School Board meetings are posted on the School District's website.

Are the meetings open to the public?

Yes, citizens can attend the regular business meetings as well as other dialogue sessions and work sessions. The agendas of the regular business meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board with topics of concern or to comment on agenda items that are being considered by the Board.

How do I know what the School Board will discuss?

The agendas, along with background and support material for each agenda item, are posted on the School District's website on the Tuesday before each meeting. Minutes of past meetings also are posted on the website after they have been approved by the Board.

What is on the typical School Board agenda?

School Board meetings will often include business items, such as proposed changes to policies and the approval of bill payments, financial reports, personnel changes, cooperative agreements and large contracts. Meetings also include opportunities to recognize students who have made outstanding achievements and presentations about a wide-range of topics or issues related to education, schools and the operation of the School District.

How much are Board members paid?

Board members receive a per diem of \$50 per meeting and for other official duties, not to exceed \$4,800 during a calendar year, plus they are reimbursed for reasonable food, lodging and travel expenses when on School District business.