

From the President

First of all, I would like to thank you for passing the homestead millage. It's key to keeping the quality program that we have available to our students here in Potterville.

When I first was elected to the board (more years ago than even I'm willing to admit) I wasn't sure just what a board members job was. In the past year, I have had several people come up to me and ask the same question. So I'm going to do my best to help you understand just what your board representatives' responsibilities are.

A school board is like the board of directors of a corporation, they have no responsibility for the day to day operation of the company or in this case the school. It is the superintendent's job along with his staff to run the daily operations. The board has three specific jobs:

1. Develop and adopt policies and procedures for the superintendent to follow.
2. Adopt a yearly budget. The budget is developed by the superintendent and his staff.
3. Hire and evaluate the superintendent.

A single board member has no authority; he or she cannot solve anyone's individual problems. The Board only functions as a group. Even the sub committees only make recommendations to the whole board.

If you have a problem with something that is happening or has happened at the school it has to go through a chain of command. First talk to the person who is directly responsible. So if it's in the class room that would be the teacher first. If you're not satisfied with your outcome (you don't feel your problem has been resolved) the next step is the principal. Once again if you feel that the situation has not been resolved it would then go to the superintendent. If after working with the superintendent, you feel that the issue has been handled incorrectly you can appeal to the board. The board's job is to listen to your concern then make sure all policies and procedures have been followed correctly. If everything was handled in accordance with those guidelines, it's the board's job to uphold the administration's decision. If the Board makes any other decision it would be violation of its own policy.

The Board also puts together yearly goals for the school. These goals provide the direction for the superintendent to follow for that year. The Board tries to make the goals specific enough to be able to track their progress. The Board also develops a mission statement which is to be the guiding principles by which the school will operate under. ***Individual board members do not give the superintendent specific direction or tasks to do.*** The superintendent gets his direction from the day to day needs of the school system and working on accomplishing the goals developed by the Board for that year.

The Board develops the goals by gathering the wants and needs of the school staff along with the community input. With that information they can evaluate and determine what the highest priority needs are and evaluate what costs are needed to accomplish that goal. With that information, the Board determines what goals to adopt for the year.

Jim Lehman
School Board President