

## **What Does a School Board Do?**

Boards of Education have several functions:

- Developing, implementing and monitoring of the district's policies including short and long term goals. These policies serve as the road map for the school district. They give direction to the administration and staff and become the foundation for accountability.
- Selecting, retaining and evaluating the superintendent of schools, who serves as the district's chief executive officer and implements board policy. Perhaps no single decision a board makes has more impact than the selection of the superintendent.
- Effective board members establish good working relationships with the superintendent. The board and individual members should refrain from becoming involved in the day-to-day operation of the schools and remember that board members have no individual authority other than their vote at a formal board meeting. Outside of an official meeting, or unless otherwise designated by the board, an individual board member is an ordinary citizen, with no more authority than any citizen.
- Serving as the impartial hearing panel on such issues as termination, expulsion and grievance.
- Developing, approving and monitoring implementation of the budget. The budget provides resources for the educational priorities of the school district.
- Building public support and understanding of public education. This means communicating and interpreting the school district's mission to the public, listening to the community, and when appropriate, incorporating citizens' views into the discussions of the Board..