



HAMILTON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 10

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## Leadership and learning go hand-in-hand

November 15 will mark the ninth official statewide observance of School Board Members Day in Illinois. This is an opportunity for the district and community to thank school board members for their commitment in providing a local governance voice for your education decisions.

Board members must be tuned in to the voices of their community. They craft a vision, mission, and goals to accurately reflect the desires expressed by parents and residents. They take their positions seriously and view their roles as a way to create opportunities for all students to succeed.

When it comes to public service school board members are some of the most selfless volunteers around. They are your coworkers, neighbors, parents, and everything in between. They are also the front-line advocates fighting for quality education for every child. They serve without the expectation of a paycheck in a position where they act as guardians of the community's tax dollars and its most precious resource—the children.

School board members do more than just attend meetings, they devote a significant amount of their own personal time to the district. They attend extracurricular events to support schools. They participate in professional development opportunities to learn how to become better leaders. They are often involved in other local events, representing themselves, their community, and their district. Many of these activities take them away from time that could be spent with their own family. They sacrifice in order to create a better future for the students they represent.

Some people are quick to criticize school board members without understanding the details that went into the decision-making process. As a result, the efforts of the local board of education often go unrecognized and unrewarded. Quality education opportunities are one of the largest drivers of successful communities. High quality public schools directly equate to a thriving local economy and a growing community. The leadership exemplified by board members directly impacts the school district, students, and parents, but it touches the lives of nearly every resident in one way or another.

November 15, 2017 has been designated as School Board Members Day in Illinois. Leadership for our community and our schools begins with the tireless work of the local board of education. Help us join with others from throughout Illinois recognizing their efforts.