Strategies For Working With New Board Of Education Members
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Superintendent’s Informal and Formal Welcoming and Congratulations:

Send a Letter from the Superintendent

Send News Release to Press

Put something in the Superintendent’s Column, District Newsletter

Board of Educations Informal and Formal Welcoming and Congratulations:

Letter from the Board President

Reception at the Annual Reorganizational Meeting

Use New School Board Member Orientation Programs:

Local Orientation Program:

- Superintendent and Board President
- **Suggested Tonics:**
  - Role of a School Board Member
  - Role of the Superintendent
  - Structure of the Public School System
  - School Board Associations
  - Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
  - Collective Bargaining and Personnel Management
  - School Budget Development
  - Curriculum and Instruction
  - District Shared decision Making Plan
  - District Strategic Plan
  - District Support Services (Transportation...
Regional Orientation Program (such as CNYSBA):

- New board members only

State Orientation Program (NYSSBA):

- Superintendent and new board members

**Nurture and Maintain Positive Relationship with Board Members:**

Participate (as Superintendent) in school board development activities

Provide the Board with Weekly Updates

Start and keep all board meetings operating on a positive tone:

- Hold Board meetings in schools
- Have students performing music as the board members and audience enter the meeting room
- Have student and faculty presentations
- Announcement on “What’s Right With ___________ Schools ?“
- Have a mid-meeting break for refreshments, and so the Board can mingle with the audience members
- Keep meetings to 2 to 2 1/2 hours - board members have other lives and have to go to work in the morning

Celebrate “important” events at meetings (i.e.: birthdays, landmark...
Board of Education / Superintendent Relations

“A marriage made in Heaven…… or Not.”

• The Superintendent’s Contract is a combination of Marriage Vows and Prenuptial Agreement

• The first 6 month is the “Honeymoon Period,” where positions are established.

• Communication and mutual understanding are keys to success.

• Respect for each other strengths, and understand of each other’s weaknesses.

• The continual willingness to look out for each other is important.

• Share responsibilities, with a clear understanding of differences in responsibilities.

• Encourage a mutual belief that the “best of all worlds” is that the relationship stays in place.

• Disagreements do not have to end in divorce. The deterrent to divorce is that it is can be expensive to both sides.

• Hopefully you will be able to celebrate many anniversaries.