

ABOUT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Who is on the 2016-2017 Board of Education?

The Board of Education is composed of five members who serve five-year terms of office. Current members are Thomas Jory (President), Kelly Gallagher (Vice-President), Douglas Gulotty, Matthew Sweeney, and Kathryn Fredette.

Who is eligible?

Members are **elected** by the voters of the District to establish policy that guides the administration of our schools. People are eligible for election to the Board if they are qualified voters of the District (residents, U.S. citizens, 18 and older) and can read and write. New York State Education Law does not limit the number of terms of office a member may serve. Board members receive no salaries or other compensation.

When are members elected?

One seat on the Board is up for election every year. Voting on candidates for Board membership takes place at the Annual Election of the School District (Budget Vote) in May.

Board Operational Norms

All members, administrators, staff, students, and community have a responsibility to:

- * freely express points of view on issues in appropriate and constructive ways
- * be active listeners
- * be courteous and respectful in public and in private
- * listen respectfully to each other
- * portray a positive and patient attitude
- * work to establish an environment of trust and honesty
- * be open-minded and patient decision makers
- * keep an open mind to different points of view
- * avoid placing labels on each other
- * keep a sense of humor and perspective
- * be brief; adhere to reasonable time constraints

What are the Board's functions?

As your representatives, the Board exercises the community's rights to local control over public education. Every Board of Education in New York has legal and financial control over local school matters, subject only to limitations imposed by the United States Constitution, federal law, state law, regulations of the Commissioner of Education, and, of course, the will of local residents as expressed in local elections.

How can I resolve a concern?

Initially, specific concerns should be taken to the staff member closest to the issue, which usually means a teacher, guidance counselor, building principal, or supervisor. Following this, a resident may wish to carry the concern to the Superintendent or Business Manager. After the resident has worked with staff members and administrators, then the matter may be referred to the Board of Education.

What is Executive Session?

In addition to its regular meetings, it is sometimes necessary for the Board of Education to hold executive sessions. These sessions may precede or follow regular meetings and are for the discussion of sensitive subjects such as personnel matters and employee contract negotiations. All official actions, however, must and do take place at public meetings.

Board and staff members will only answer questions on which the facts are immediately available. Many questions may have to be referred for study and responded to at a later time. The Board will not allow discussion of matters irrelevant to the business of the School District or comments about any individual District employee or student. These issues should be addressed according to the above recommendations for resolving concern.

WELCOME



SCHENEVUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.schenevuscsd.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2016-2017 Meeting Schedule

2016	2017
July 5 & 26	January 10
August 23	February 7
September 27	March 28
October 25	April 11 & 25
November 8	May 9 & 23
December 13	June 27

May 9, 2017 - Budget Hearing
May 16, 2017 - Budget Vote and Election

WELCOME TO A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thank you for your interest in our community's schools. We hope this pamphlet is helpful to you as you participate in the District's governing process.

We welcome your input at all Board of Education meetings, and we are pleased to be working with you on improving education for all of our students.

GENERAL INFORMATION

When are meetings held?

In general, the Board of Education meets at 7:00 PM. During the months of December, January, and February the Board meets at 5:00 PM. Occasionally, regular meetings must be rescheduled or additional meetings held. Whenever possible, the public is notified in advance when this happens.

Where are the meetings held?

The Board meets in the school's Cafeteria. If you need directions, please call the Superintendent's Office at 638-5530.

Can I get a schedule of meetings for one year?

A schedule of meetings for the 2016-2017 school year can be found on the front of this pamphlet or on the district's web site. For additional information about upcoming meetings, please call the Superintendent's Office at 638-5530.

THE PROCESS: AGENDAS AND PUBLIC INPUT

When are agendas available?

Copies of the agenda are available at each meeting. These agendas are prepared by the Superintendent and Board President and have been forwarded to Board members prior to the meeting so they can be well informed on agenda topics requiring action.

Agendas are posted, before the meeting, in the Main Office and also on the district website www.schenevuscsd.org. Agendas are available upon request in the Superintendent's Office at 638-5530.

How do the meetings proceed?

To ensure efficient handling of the business before the Board and the community at each meeting, all present - including Board members - follow specific rules of order.

All meetings are conducted by the President (or by the Vice-President in the absence of the President), in accordance with a standard agenda format.

What kind of business does the Board address?

The Board of Education's responsibilities include: establishing policy for the operation of schools; adopting curriculum; securing money for operational needs and programs; authorizing expenditures; determining goals and standards; interpreting the educational needs of the community in matters affecting education.

What District employees participate in Board meetings?

Although they have no vote in actions taken by the Board, three District employees regularly attend meetings to provide information and offer advice.

They are: Thomas Jennings, Superintendent; Ashley Dadey, Board Clerk; Matthew Wendel, Building Principal; Pam Barber, Director of Special Education. Other District staff members attend meetings as needed.

Who else participates in Board meetings?

Although these are meetings held in public, they are not public meetings. At every Board of Education meeting there is a separate opportunity for visitors to participate. It is listed on the agenda as Visitors. Visitors are asked, upon being recognized by the Board President, to introduce themselves and identify the organization they're representing (if any).

The "Visitors" occurs early in each meeting, and at this time, the Board is open to comment on any subject on that meeting's agenda. This guarantees residents the chance to offer opinions on actions slated to take place later in the evening. The "Visitors" segment is also open to comment on any topic. This section of the meeting is for comments by the public and is not intended for dialogue. Individuals are permitted to speak for up to five (5) minutes. A total of thirty (30) minutes will be allowed for this section.