Suggested Editorial

The following can be adapted for use in your district newsletter, as an article in your local newspaper, as a letter to the editor or as the foundation of a speech. Localize the article by adding information about your school’s directors, details of how school directors will be honored during January and examples of ways your board has improved education for the students in your district. Be sure to include school directors’ names and years of service. Nine out of every 10 students in the United States attend public schools. Therefore, access to high-quality public education is crucial not only for our children’s success, but for the strength of our society. It takes a team of dedicated people – teachers, administrators, staff, parents and other community members – to provide that education. The nine members of your local school board are a key part of this team, making informed decisions that shape our public schools.

In honor of the commitment and time school board directors volunteer on behalf of our schools and communities, January is designated School Director Recognition Month. The work of these public servants is vital to the success of our students and schools.

From voting on budgets to adopting policy to conducting comprehensive planning, school boards make key decisions that drive public education. The work is both complex and diverse. School directors devote, on average, 10 hours each month to board business, which has only been made more challenging by the pandemic and related issues affecting the well-being of our students and families.

Board service is unpaid, and school directors are often motivated to pursue the role out of a desire to benefit their community. The majority of school directors indicated their primary reason for serving is to give back or contribute to public education, or to improve educational outcomes for students. About 42% of school directors serve the district they once attended as a student.

School directors are locally elected officials, focused on improving the townships and boroughs in which they live. They are our fellow neighbors, local leaders, co-workers, parents and friends.

As citizens and parents, the success of our schools is a collective interest. This month, set aside time to show your school directors appreciation for the time and effort they put toward this goal all year long. Their efforts help ensure that each student has opportunities to thrive and that our public schools remain pathways to a bright future.