



*Investing in education & creating futures*

Dr. Aaron Zalis  
Superintendent

Nancy McWhorter  
Board Secretary

Mr. Kelly Hinshaw  
Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Craig Hounsom  
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Candidate:

The Board of Education appreciates your interest in the governance of our school district as evidenced by your filing for the director's election to be held in April. Whether or not to run for the school board is a serious decision. School Board members are responsible for multi-million dollar budgets, taxpayer trust, employment issues and the most important responsibility of all: providing a quality education to students. As a member of a board of education, you will join more than 3,600 other Missourians who dedicate time and effort to improving public education in their local communities.

The Rolla Board of Education prides itself on its commitment and service to the students of our district. Service on the Board of Education can be rewarding, however, newly elected members are sometimes not aware of the many hours they are expected to serve. The purpose of this letter is to share with you some of the many aspects of service on the Rolla Board of Education and the time commitment inherent to that service.

Each month the Board of Education conducts at least one, usually two, regularly scheduled meetings. Special sessions and community forums are held periodically. Board members are expected to be present and actively participate in school board meetings. Meeting time alone often exceeds 100 hours per year and it is not at all unusual for meeting time to exceed 120 hours per year. Time spent reviewing information for the Board meetings is as much, or more than, the time spent in meetings. In addition to board meetings, there are a number of other activities members participate in as a regular part of their service to the district.

The Board of Education cordially invites you to attend any and all of the regularly scheduled meetings, special sessions, and community forums that occur between the time you file and the April election. A complete agenda and supporting materials will be mailed to you prior to each meeting. If you have questions about any of the materials, you are encouraged to contact Dr. Aaron Zalis, Superintendent of Schools, or any of the Board of Education members.

A brief summary of some of the other significant activities follows:

- **Certified Board Member Training**

Those individuals newly elected to the Board of Education after 1993 are required by state law to complete a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of board member training conducted by the Missouri School

Boards Association during the first year of service. The training sessions are held at various sites around the state at varying times throughout the year, usually over a weekend. The training sessions are offered free of charge to the board member and all expenses incurred during the training are reimbursed by the school district.

- **Board Orientation Session**

Individuals newly elected to the Rolla Board of Education participate in a local Board Orientation Session. This will consist of several meetings with the superintendent and other administrators to discuss specific areas.

- **Ad-Hoc and Standing Committees**

Board of Education members are appointed annually to serve as ex-officio members on various ad-hoc and/or standing committees in the district. The amount of service required is defined by the nature of the committee to which the member is appointed.

- **MSBA-MASA Annual Conference**

The Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA) and Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA) host an annual conference at Tan-Tar-A for boards of education throughout the state of Missouri. All Board of Education members are encouraged to attend this two-day event which includes panel discussions, clinic sessions and workshops, and an opportunity to continue with the Certified Board Member training sessions.

Again, the Board of Education greatly appreciates your interest in and concern for the children served by our school system. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Board of Education or Dr. Aaron Zalis, Superintendent, at 573-458-0100.

Sincerely,

Nancy McWhorter, Secretary  
Board of Education