

Ames Community School District
Ames, IA

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY
FOR APPOINTMENT TO
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

I affirm that the information I have provided above is correct. I am a candidate for appointment to the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Ames Community School District. I am eligible to hold the office of Director. I am a resident of the Ames Community School District and at least 18 years of age. If I am appointed, I will qualify by taking the oath of office.

Signature of Candidate Date

(Completed form to be filed with the Board Secretary, 2005 24th Street, Ames, IA 50010, telephone 268.6640)

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

Directions: Candidates are to file responses to the questions below with the Board Secretary, 20025 24th Street, Ames, IA 50010 by 4:30 p.m. on **May 17, 2018**. Responses can also be emailed to Board Secretary Chris Stensland (chris.stensland@ames.k12.ia.us) or faxed to 268.6634 by the **May 17** deadline.

Questions:

1. Why are you seeking appointment to the Ames Board of Education?
2. How do you believe you embody the traits described in board policy 201.3, Traits of Effective Board Members?

TRAITS OF EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Effective Board members have a commitment to the children of the District and must possess a conviction of the importance of public education. Board members make decisions based on the interest of the community as a whole without fear or favor. They must be committed to fulfilling their responsibilities in the areas of vision, structure, accountability and advocacy.

Board members also have the ability and willingness to make decisions and must have a commitment to the democratic process. Members strive to provide a fair and supportive environment for all students, employees and patrons of school programs regardless of their color, sex, race, national origin, religion, creed, age, actual or potential parental, family or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status or disability.

In addition, an effective Board member must have time and energy to devote to the work of the Board, the ability to accept the will of the majority, respect for education as a profession, and the ability to communicate well with others. An effective Board member makes every attempt to attend all Board meetings and prepares for the meetings by reading and analyzing the agenda and supporting information. Effective Board members resist springing surprises at Board meetings, abide by Board policies and rules, and hold off making decisions until all the evidence is in and Board discussion is over.

An effective Board member reads, listens, observes and respectfully asks questions to be well informed about matters in the schools, including matters brought to the attention of the Board member by parents and other constituents. The Board member works through established channels and brings unresolved issues before the Board either through the Superintendent or at properly called meetings of the Board. A Board member does not privately intervene in decisions at school sites or in any day-to-day management decisions. A Board member represents the District as a whole and not individual constituents or special interest groups.

A Board member holds in confidence all confidential matters involving the District until such time as there has been general public disclosure. Staff evaluation and performance matters must always remain confidential. A Board member shall not disclose any details of the discussion held in any properly closed session of the Board.

Board members observe federal and state laws and regulations relevant to education and the schools.

Each Board member will avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. (See “Conflicts of Interest,” “Gifts to Board Members” and Chapter 68 of the Iowa Code.) It is the responsibility of each Board member to be aware of potential conflicts of this nature and to take the action necessary to eliminate such a conflict of interest should it arise.

Members of the Board who have or may have an indirect interest in any matter pending before the Board because of the member’s relationship to the recipient as, for example, a client or customer of the Board member, should consider whether the interest creates a conflict which should be disclosed to the Board and whether the Board member should abstain from discussion or action taken because of the relationship.

An effective Board member strives to foster unity and harmony among the Board, and differentiates between problems which require Board action and those which should be solved by administration. Each Board member recognizes and respects the integrity of predecessors and associates and the merit of their work. Each member refrains from making disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board meeting, about other members of the Board, about their opinions or about the staff of the District. Remarks, inferences, insinuations, and innuendoes which reflect adversely upon the character or motives of any person are out of order. The Board member supports the Superintendent’s authority, shares responsibility for Board decisions, accepts and evaluates criticism and advice objectively, avoids personality conflicts and strives to improve personal boardmanship qualities. Effective Board members understand their role as a member of the team that includes not only the Board members, but administrators and others.

Each Board member recognizes that the Superintendent is the Chief Executive Officer of the District. Each member grants the Superintendent power commensurate with this responsibility and does not interfere with, or seek to undermine, his/her authority. Toward that goal, each Board member refers complaints or questions to the proper administrative staff designated by the Board or Superintendent, presents any personal criticism of employees to the Superintendent (or requests the President to take up such matters at an appropriate meeting of the Board), and obtains information and discusses issues with and solicits solutions and recommendations from the Superintendent or administrative staff designated by the Superintendent or by the Board.

December 18, 2017