

Executive Session

Some Board matters are handled in executive session, occurring in private for various reasons, often to protect the privacy of students or staff involved. Information conveyed in executive session is confidential.

There are numerous topics under the law the Board may enter into executive session to address, including but not limited to:

- Proposed, pending, or current litigation
- The employment, discipline or dismissal of a particular person
- Collective bargaining agreements
- Matters made confidential by law (for example, information about student records under FERPA or about students with disabilities under the IDEA)
- Matters subject to Attorney-Client Privilege
- Quasi-judicial or judicial proceedings
- Matters that may endanger public safety if disclosed
- The medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a person or entity
- The preparation, grading, or administration of exams

The Town of Webb
Union Free School
District Board of
Education is committed
to providing an excellent
educational environment
where all students and
staff are
compassionately
connected, joyfully
engaged, and always
learning. The District's
mission in collaboration
with the community is to
foster academic
excellence, create
responsible citizens and
promote lifelong
learning.



**PURPOSES
OF A BOARD
OF
EDUCATION**

Town of Webb Union Free School District Board of Education

The Board of Education is comprised of five District residents who are elected by District voters to five-year terms at the annual School District election.

A president and vice president are elected by the Board at the annual organizational meeting in July.

Board members are volunteers. They take an oath of office to comply with New York State Law, District Policy and directives from the Commissioner of Education and other governing entities. For the 2022-2023 school year, current Board members are:

Ms. Kendra Hopsicker, President, term ends 2023

Ms. Diane Heroux, Vice President, term ends 2024

Ms. Marissa VanValkenburg, term ends 2025

Ms. Margaret Morelli, term ends 2026

Ms. Jennifer Lis, term ends 2027

Mary Kate Russell serves as District Clerk

Role of the Board

The Board of Education is the governing body of the School District and is entrusted with the responsibility of developing policies under which the District is managed. The Board's powers and duties are very specific.

The Board works with the Superintendent to create a District vision, set goals, and establish a framework of desired outcomes.

The Board reviews, modifies, and approves all District policies.

The Board hires, supervises, and manages the Superintendent. The Superintendent is its only employee, and the Superintendent is considered the Board's executive.

The Board authorizes an appointment of an external, independent auditor that reports directly to the Board to facilitate meeting its financial oversight responsibilities to the state, the school system, and the community.

The Board adopts a budget that it puts to voters for approval and sets school tax rates within legal limits.

The Board has a clear chain of communication (board president and superintendent) for Board-to-Board and Board-to-Superintendent relations.

Purposes of School Board Meetings

The Board hosts public meetings to accomplish its responsibilities in front of constituents. Board members have no individual authority over school affairs. They have authority only when acting as a body duly called in session, with limited exceptions provided by law or by board resolution. Board members exercise their authority by voting in open sessions during Board meetings (except when a vote in executive session is authorized by law).

Often, individuals are called upon at meetings to provide the Board with needed information to understand and achieve their responsibilities.



Public Comment

The Board recognizes its responsibility to hear and respond to public comments. To that end, a specific agenda item is included in most regular Board meetings to give individuals an opportunity to address the Board. Persons wishing to speak should contact District Clerk Mary Kate Russell to be added to the agenda. There is a 5-minute limit per speaker. Visitors are asked to be courteous to other speakers, wait their turn to speak, and model kindness and civility.