

News release



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January is School Board Appreciation Month

Everett Public Schools Board of Directors to appoint replacement members [Jan. 9](#) and [Feb. 3](#)

Since 1995, the [National School Boards Association](#) has designated January as a time to reflect upon the contributions and dedication of local school board members and thank them for countless hours and focus on what is best for all students in their districts.

In Washington state 1,477 locally elected board members set governing policies and pathways for success for the state's 295 school districts. More than one million students depend upon their vision, wisdom and big-picture perspective to equitably and ethically oversee nearly \$13 billion in combined local school district budgets and 160,000 employees.

"School board members must establish sound policies and make critical, strategic decisions that impact students and communities now and far into the future," said Everett Public Schools Superintendent Gary Cohn. "In Everett Public Schools, the board's long history of sharp focus on high school graduation rates has become a model for the rest of the state. Now, with the board's leadership and support, we are also among a cadre of regional districts investing in early learning and seamless transition from preschool to kindergarten as a critical foundation for future school and life success."

Everett's Mayor Ray Stephanson credits the community's economy in part to successful local schools. "Our community is very fortunate to have such strong local leadership in the Everett school board," the Mayor said. "So much of what drives our economy and makes Everett a place people want to live and work begins in our schools. The board's guidance plays a vital role in the success of our schools and students."

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(Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson)*

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Mill Creek City Council member and former Mayor Mike Todd agrees and adds, “Strong schools are an important element of the attractiveness of the greater Mill Creek area. Top schools attract involved and dedicated families, the kind of people who make an entire community successful and vibrant. The school board has done an excellent job responding to the growth in our area, through long term planning and major capital projects that provide the environment for educating our youth to be ready for post-secondary education or the workforce. We should all take this opportunity to thank our school board members, past and present, for the tireless work they do to make our schools and community great.”

“School directors provide a passionate voice of advocacy for public schools and the welfare of school children, and it is appropriate to recognize school directors as outstanding volunteers and champions for public education.” (Governor Jay Inslee)

Governor Jay Inslee issued an [official proclamation](#) about School Board Appreciation Month stating in part, “School directors provide a passionate voice of advocacy for public schools and the welfare of school children, and it is appropriate to recognize school directors as outstanding volunteers and champions for public education.”

On [Jan. 9](#), and [Feb. 3](#), the school board will interview five candidates to replace former board members who resigned in [December](#) and [January](#). Those interviews, which will be in open session, begin on each of those days at 3 p.m. in the board room of the Community Resource Center at 3900 Broadway in Everett.

Of the candidates who have already applied for the first round of interviews and of those who might apply between now and Jan. 23, Superintendent Gary Cohn says, “That these individuals seek to step into this demanding and very public role is emblematic of the support this community has for its schools. Knowing the time and accountability commitments expected of them, these individuals are not only willing, but excited about, the important work they face – and the more than 50 public meetings and many more public appearances and events they will attend each and every year.”

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