



Climax-Scotts Community Schools
Putting Kids First!

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For Immediate Release

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**CLIMAX-SCOTTS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS HONORS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS FOR ANNUAL
RECOGNITION MONTH**

Climax-Scotts is joining 537 local and 56 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

“In another year full of challenges for public education, our school board members persevered through the adversity of 2022 to provide the best possible education for our students,” said Superintendent Doug Newington. “Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one of the very small ways to express appreciation for all they do.”

School board members represent the views and priorities of their community in the complex system of maintaining and running a district’s public schools, Newington said. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan.

“Too often, the efforts of school board members go unrecognized,” Newington said.

According to the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), the school board’s main goal is to support student achievement. To achieve that goal, the board focuses on the following needs:

- Creating a vision for what parents and citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority.
- Setting standards for what students must learn and be able to do.
- Assessing whether schools achieve their goals and whether students are learning.
- Accounting for the outcomes of decisions and by tracking progress and reporting results.
- Aligning the use of the district’s human and financial resources.
- Creating a safe and orderly climate where students can learn, and teachers can teach.
- Collaborating to solve common problems and to support common successes.
- Focusing on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining, and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

“Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part,” Newington said. “No matter what challenges lie ahead for our district in 2023, our school board members will continue to govern to improve student achievement, maintain student safety, provide great facilities, and provide exceptional education for all our community’s children.”



The individuals serving Climax-Scotts Community Schools and their years of service are (left to right):

Terri VandeGiessen, Secretary & Treasurer, 14 years

Trent Piper, Vice President, 15 years

Sue Reichert, President, 20 years

Steve Wurtzel, Trustee, 6 years

Lori Bagwell, Trustee, 6 years

Matt Birkam, Trustee, 2 years

Jackie Longman, Trustee, 6 years

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