

# Welcome to the Ruthven-Ayrshire School Board Meeting

**Mission Statement:** The Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School, together with parents and community, will provide a supportive and caring, yet challenging environment. Students will have a variety of opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills (Iowa Core Curriculum, Core Content Standards), to learn to think creatively and to act responsibly in order to meet the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow (21st Century Skills).

## **Thank you for coming!**

The Ruthven-Ayrshire Board of Education hopes you find this meeting informative. By attending, you will better understand how your school district operates. There will be discussions about student learning, curriculum, facilities, finances, and staffing, among other topics.

Your interest is appreciated. The public school serves all students on behalf of the community and patrons of the district. Public participation and open lines of communication are vital to a strong school system.

## **Your School Board**

The Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School Board has a seven-member Board of Directors. The School Board represents the people of the district as the legal body that establishes educational policies and sets goals and objectives for the district. These policies and goals are carried out under direction of the Board by the Superintendent and through staff .

Terms are for four years and overlap to ensure continuity of Board leadership. School Board members receive no pay for their public service. The School Board is accountable to you, the Ruthven-Ayrshire communities, and to the state and federal governments.

## **Talk to us! Open Forum is for you!**

The open forum is a specific time set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public communication to the Board. At that time, interested people may properly present comments, suggestions, or concerns, even if they are not on the agenda. However, an item must be included on the agenda before the Board can officially act upon it. If you wish to comment during an open forum or about an agenda item, please complete the card provided at the door and give it to the Board President prior to the meeting. The Board President will call on you at the appropriate time. We ask that you remember that Iowa law prohibits discussing an employee's performance at a public Board Meeting.

**If you have a question or concern about the school**

Citizens are encouraged to communicate with Ruthven-Ayrshire educators and School Board Members. If you have a concern, the best place to begin is with those directly involved and responsible, usually the teacher and/or Principal. It is there that most problems can be quickly and productively resolved. If questions still remain, please contact the Superintendent. If you are convinced that further action is required, the Board is available to hear your concerns.

**When you address the Board at an open forum**

Please state your name and the organization you represent (if you are). Please limit your comments to five minutes. If you have printed information to share with the Board, please provide 10 copies to the Board Secretary.

**If you want to be on the agenda**

The School Board meeting agenda is set by the Board President and Superintendent. Individuals who wish to request an item be placed on the agenda should do so by writing Superintendent Marshall Lewis, Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School, P.O. Box 159, Ruthven, Iowa 51358.

Requests should include name, address, phone number, organization represented, the purpose of the presentation, or pertinent background information. To be included on a Monday agenda, requests must reach the Superintendent by noon on the previous Tuesday. The inclusion of items is at the discretion of the Superintendent and Board President.

**Questions?**

We welcome your ideas, questions, or suggestions.

With your help, we can achieve your goal of continued excellence in education.

**Ruthven-Ayrshire School Board Members**

Darin Malm -President

Susan Sikora -Vice President

Tracey Enderson

Stephanie Fay

Amy Loder

Jill Conlon

Heather Ruehle

### **The Superintendent**

Superintendent of Schools, Marshall Lewis, is the chief executive officer of the Board but does not vote. It is his responsibility to advise Board Members on all matters, to execute policies and decisions made by the Board, and to operate the District so that all students receive an excellent education.

### **Board Meetings**

Regular meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, in Room 214, the Superintendent's Office/Board Room. Board Meetings regularly begin at 6:00 P.M. The meeting dates and times can change due to scheduling conflicts.

Regular meetings are open to the public. Copies of the agenda are available at the door and are available at least 24 hours in advance at the main office. Copies of the Board Materials are also available for review.

A quorum of Board Members (4 of the 7) must be present for a regular meeting to take place. All actions authorized or required by law are taken in open meetings. State law allows the Board to consider matters such as personnel and building site acquisitions in closed session and then vote in open session.



**“Working together for excellence....”**

**Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School  
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