

Date: January 9, 2018

Dear Editor:

January is School Board Recognition Month—a time to salute the work of our volunteer school board members and to celebrate public education.

This special recognition of School Board members reflects our combined commitment to leadership and accountability assuring that ALL children succeed.

It's an exciting and challenging time in public education. School board members in the Chelsea School District develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility for an annual budget of \$27 million, 2,444 students, 357 employees and 4 buildings. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our communities.

Our board of education, and the hundreds like it across the state, preserve the core of our democracy—public education. They ensure that decisions on school programming are made by people we've elected to represent our community's values, culture and circumstances.

Showing appreciation for the important work of school boards should be a year-round process, but too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who represent us. This January, the staff and students of our district are asking all members of the community to take a moment and thank a school board member.

Thank you to the men and women who dedicate countless personal hours to ensure the needs of our community are met by our public schools. We salute the public servants of (your district's name) whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible. We applaud them for their vision and voice to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders.

The men and women serving the Chelsea School District and their years of service are:

President Anne Mann – 14 years of service
Vice President Shawn Quilter – 1 year of service
Treasurer Greg Rhodes – 4 years of service
Secretary Laura Bush – 6 years of service
Trustee Tammy Lehman – 8 years of service
Trustee Dana Durst – 4 years of service
Trustee Kristin van Reesema – 1 year of service

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie D. Helber
Chelsea School District

School Board Recognition Month is celebrated by more than 540 school districts in Michigan in January, honoring more than 4,000 elected school board members for untiring dedication to school governance.