Questions to consider in working more effectively with school boards:

- How many members serve on the school board? What are their names and how can they be contacted?
- How are school board members chosen?
- How often and where does the school board meet? Are the meetings aired on cable television, radio, or via webcast?
- When does the school board reserve time on its agenda for the public to speak, as required by law?
- Does the school board have a written policy on parent involvement that agrees with PTA policy and the California state mandate on parent involvement?
- What is the relationship of site council(s) or other school/parent committees to the school board?
- Does the school board agenda include a report from PTA? Where are agendas, minutes, reports, etc., available?

PTA’s nonpartisan policy prohibits the PTA from endorsing or opposing a candidate for public office. PTAs may support or oppose issues and principles.

PTAs should:

- Find out when regular or special school board elections will be held.
- Be aware that, by law, PTA (as a non-profit association) must remain neutral in any candidate election. PTA may take positions on issues only.
- Alert community members to the coming election (or appointment) of school board members.
- Emphasize citizen obligation to register and vote.
- Publicize the duties of a school board member and the qualifications of the candidates by providing profiles of all candidates in a non-biased manner.
- Sponsor candidate forums where all school board candidates are invited to speak. (This may be done in cooperation with other nonpartisan organizations, e.g., League of Women Voters.)

Encourage citizens to evaluate carefully each school board candidate on the ability to represent the whole community on all educational issues.
School board decisions and PTA

School board decisions are important to the PTA and the school board, and PTA members of the school board must be involved in the decision-making process. School boards can be valuable resources for PTA and school board members by:

- Helping to develop and implement policies
- Providing financial support
- Advocating for legislation that benefits education
- Providing feedback on school performance
- Developing partnerships with other organizations
- Encouraging community involvement

School boards can also be a source of information for the PTA, and PTA members can help the school board by:

- Providing feedback on school policies
- Recommending changes to the school board
- Helping to implement new programs
- Encouraging parents to participate in school board activities
- Promoting the school board's agenda

School board meetings are important for discussing and adopting policies that affect the school district and the needs of children. School boards are responsible for making decisions that impact education and ensuring that the community's needs are met. The school board's role is to ensure that the PTA and the school board work together to achieve high standards of education and care for the children.