

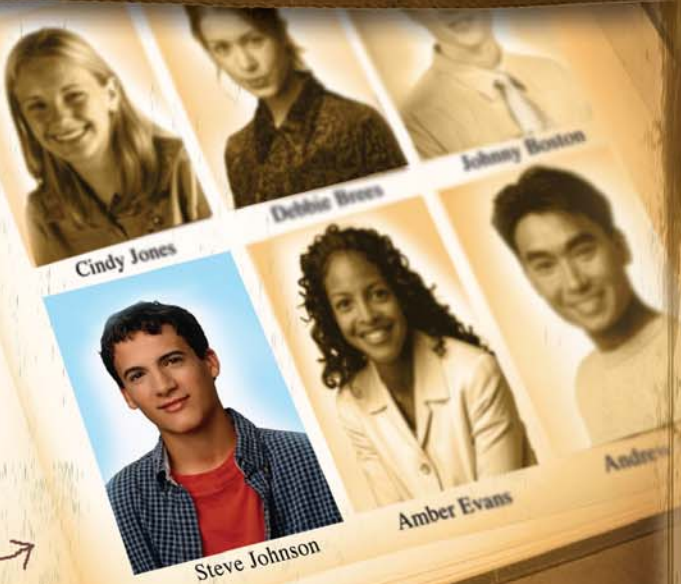
# LEADERSHOP ACADEMY

STEVE  
LEADERSHIP

Make Our School District  
Better for Kids!

STEVE JOHNSON  
Future School  
Board Member  
Extraordinaire

Get training at  
the LeaderShop program!  
Lead our community to be better



STEVE JOHNSON

School Board Member, LeaderShop Graduate

  
SCHOOL  
BOARD  
**LeaderShop**  
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND RESOURCES  
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP SM



# *Try to think of something that would ...*

- Increase the proportion of board meeting time devoted to important policy choices;
- Reduce time spent in board meetings rehashing staff decisions or questioning routine matters;
- Get all members of the board working together toward common ends;
- Get community consensus in support of those same ends and generate a staff/community partnership in pursuit of those ends;
- Replace the endless haggling that too often occurs at the board table over “minor” issues with clear processes for identifying and dealing with the really important work of the district;
- Accurately inform the board as to “how the district is doing” in terms of student performance, finances and parent satisfaction;
- Hold the superintendent and staff accountable for progress toward agreed-upon goals;
- Make service on a school board more satisfying;
- Make the jobs of the superintendent and other school district staff more satisfying.

*Have you thought of something yet? If not, how about “effective school board leadership?”*

Effective school board leadership is what staff of the Illinois Association of School Boards had in mind when they developed *School Board LeaderShop*.

*School Board LeaderShop* is a series of workshops and other opportunities for school board networking and learning.

*School Board LeaderShop* programs provide:

- the knowledge, skills and resources that school board members need in order to grow both personally and in their ability to provide sound school district leadership, and
- a coherent path to higher levels of competency and performance for school boards that promises results for a modest investment of time and money.

The purpose of *School Board LeaderShop* programs is to help school boards speak effectively for their communities in setting expectations for their schools; make sure that their schools achieve the best possible results in meeting those expectations; and ensure that public resources are used effectively and efficiently to achieve those results.

# The Curriculum

*School Board LeaderShop* is designed for both the veteran board member looking for district improvement and the new board member anxious to understand basic roles and responsibilities. The veteran and the rookie are afforded the same opportunities, but without the veteran having to sit through the basics a second time.

*School Board LeaderShop* programs are in two categories:

- **Core programs** directly relate to principles of effective school district governance:
  - ***The Basics of School District Governance*** for newer board members
    - An overview of the principles of effective governance
  - or*
  - ***School Board Leadership*** for veteran board members
    - A look at the board as trustee for the community and the responsibilities that role places on the board
  - ***The Basics of School Law and Finance***
    - Overview and review of the ever-changing legal responsibilities and obligations of school boards and board members;
    - Overview and review of school funding, typical financial reports and the board's fiduciary responsibility for ensuring the district's fiscal health
  - ***The Critical Role of School Boards in a Democracy***
    - Learning why we have elected boards of education
    - Exploring the fundamental purpose of school boards in a democracy and how boards fulfill this purpose
    - Making decisions for the public good

■ ***The Board's First Responsibility:***

***Detecting and Communicating a Compelling Vision***

- ❑ Detecting and clearly articulating the district's mission, vision, values and beliefs
- ❑ Reaching out to the community in order to determine broad public interests for the public schools
- ❑ Serving the public interest in its schools while advocating for continuous district improvement

■ ***Targeting Student Learning:***

***Focusing on the Real Work of Boards***

A four-part process that enables the board to conduct in-depth policy discussions that:

- ❑ truly impact student learning;
- ❑ are based on relevant data rather than perception;
- ❑ encourage broad-based participation from community and staff

■ ***School Board Accountability:***

***Monitoring District Performance***

- ❑ Ensuring that the district is making progress toward its stated mission and vision, and complying with written board expectations
- ❑ Using data, rather than perception, to monitor performance
- ❑ Creating tools to ensure ongoing, efficient monitoring of district performance

■ ***The Board and Its Superintendent: Developing and Maintaining an Effective Relationship***

- ❑ Understanding the legal responsibilities and the complementary roles of the board and the superintendent
- ❑ Learning how to communicate clear expectations to the superintendent and to appropriately delegate authority to the superintendent for meeting those expectations
- ❑ Developing a meaningful superintendent evaluation process that supports continuous district improvement and enhances the board/superintendent relationship

## ■ *Making Meetings Matter*

- ❑ Identifying symptoms of ineffective board meetings
  - ❑ Identifying ingredients of successful board meetings
  - ❑ Developing agendas that reflect board work
  - ❑ Conducting legal meetings
  - ❑ Implementing best practices associated with high functioning boards of education
  - ❑ Transforming ineffective board meetings into effective meetings
- **Elective programs** focus on additional board and board member skills that promote effective school district leadership. Elective topics include issue-related programs (e.g., collective bargaining, meeting management) and interpersonal/skill development programs (e.g., communication skills, Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory).

Programs in both categories will be offered at regular intervals in four-year cycles coinciding with the typical four-year term of office. However, some programs will be offered more often to accommodate board member turnover and the biennial election cycle. Additionally, elective programs are available at IASB's Online Learning Center year-round. (Visit IASB's Website, [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com), for more information about the Online Learning Center.)

## *School Board LeaderShop Academy*

The *School Board LeaderShop Academy* promotes and recognizes board members' efforts toward continuous learning and professional development. As board members work their way through the *School Board LeaderShop* curriculum, they earn and maintain membership in the Academy.

1. Admission to Academy membership requires completion of three *School Board LeaderShop* programs:
  - a. At least two of these programs must be from the Core curriculum and one of those must be the school district governance overview.
  - b. The third program may be either a Core or an Elective offering.

2. Academy membership is maintained by completing at least one additional program (either Core or Elective) over a two-year period.
3. Upon the completion of seven Core and five Elective programs, members will be recognized as Academy Fellows.
4. The Member Emeritus designation is for those board members who retire from or leave their boards while maintaining a Fellowship designation.

Academy members will be recognized for their commitment to continuous learning in various ways:

- Academy members will receive a LeaderShop Academy pen upon admission to the Academy;
- Academy Fellows will receive a plaque recognizing their achievement and will be invited to serve in advisory and/or mentoring positions around effective governance issues;
- The names of Members Emeritus will be displayed on a permanent honor roll displayed at the state IASB office and will be offered the opportunity to receive a lifelong subscription to IASB publications.

Additionally, all Academy members will have the opportunity to a special bi-annual Academy Symposium designed especially for them.

## *Getting Started*



You can begin attending *School Board LeaderShop* programs and earning credit toward membership in the *School Board LeaderShop* Academy right away.

Several different workshops are offered each year. Log on to IASB's Web site at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com) to see an up-to-date schedule of *School Board LeaderShop* offerings, including those offered as pre-conference workshops, and to obtain registration information.

You also have the option of bringing any LeaderShop Core program directly to your district and board. Just contact your Field Services Director for more information.

And watch your mail. IASB will keep you informed via direct mailings of upcoming *LeaderShop* events.

## Money-Saving Packages

### ■ Package Pricing:

- ❑ ***In-District Workshop Pack:*** Any workshop presented to the entire board at a location of the district's choosing — \$1000 (Savings of up to \$155.)
- ❑ ***District Three-Pack:*** Package of any three workshops to be used in one calendar year (for an individual board member or shared by members of the same board) — \$480 (Savings to district of \$45 to \$90 depending upon workshops selected.)
- ❑ ***District Six-Pack:*** Package for any three full-day workshops plus three Online courses to be used in one calendar year (for an individual board member or shared by members of the same board) — \$780 (Savings to district of up to \$100.)



2921 Baker Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929  
217/528-9688

One Imperial Place  
1 East 22nd Street, Suite 20  
Lombard, Illinois 60148-6120  
630/629-3776

**[www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)**