

Welcome to a Benton Community School Board Meeting

Thank you for coming!

The Benton Community 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 schools belong to you and your involvement is encouraged. Public participation and open lines of communication are vital to a strong school system.

Your School Board

The Benton 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 by the superintendent and staff under the board's direction.

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 patrons of the Benton Community School District.

Board Meetings

Regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room at the Central Administration Office, 304 1st Street, Van Horne. Board meetings regularly begin at 7:00 p.m. 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 Central Administration Office, 304 1st Street, Van Horne. Copies of board materials are also available for review at the door.

A quorum of board members (four of the seven members) 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 of personnel and building site acquisitions in closed session and then vote on them in open session.

Talk to us! Open Forum is for you.

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 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 have comments about an item on the agenda, you'll have the opportunity to share them when we reach that point in the meeting.

If you wish to comment during open forum or about an agenda item, please complete the card provided at the door and give it to the Board secretary, Doug Embray, prior to the meeting. The president will call on you at the appropriate time. We ask that you remember that Iowa law prohibits us from discussing a specific employee's performance at a public board meeting.

If you have a question or concern about the schools

Citizens are encouraged to communicate with Benton Community educators and school board members. If you have a concern, the best place to begin is with those directly involved and responsible, usually at the specific school: 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. And, if you're convinced that further action is required, the board is available to hear your concerns.

When you address the board at open forum

Please address the Board near the board member's table. Remember to state your name, address and the organization you represent. Please limit your comments to five minutes. If you have printed information to share with the board, please provide copies to the school board secretary, Doug Embray.

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 Gary Zittergruen, PO Box 70, Van Horne, IA 52346.

Requests should include name, address, phone number, organization represented, purpose of the presentation or pertinent background information. To be included on a Wednesday night agenda, requests must reach the superintendent by noon on the previous Thursday. Please understand that the inclusion of items is at the discretion of the superintendent and board president.