



Ponca City School Board Leaders Honored in January

Ponca City Public School board members were honored at their January meeting for School Board Recognition Month. “Rising Up” is the theme this year for this annual event celebrated by local and career tech school districts in Oklahoma. This reflects the efforts of the men and women who advocate for Oklahoma’s children and help shape the direction of Oklahoma public education. Over 2700 elected school board members are honored by their schools and communities for untiring dedication to school governance.

Ponca City Board members were presented with lots of items from school employees & students including:

- Central administrators gave them coffee mugs with candy and homemade pecan pies (Yum!)
- Pre-Kindergarten Center presented a video in addition to a wall display thanking board members for their support of the new Pre-K Center
- Liberty gave board members oversized cards signed by students
- Trout School presented them with a “Thank You” video and an over-sized card signed by students
- Union presented each board member a cute box filled with snacks and an oversized cards signed by students
- West presented board members with pens engraved with their names that were created by their Technology Engineering Class

Dr. David Pennington, Ponca City Public School superintendent stated, “Providing our community’s children with a solid education is the most important investment we can make. We are proud of our district, and School Board Recognition month is the time to say thank you and celebrate the accomplishments of our elected board members. Ponca City Schools is joining with other districts throughout the state to recognize the important contributions school board members make to their communities. This is the time to say thank you to school board members for the tough decisions they make, their commitment to receive board training on their own time, and working tirelessly for the future of our kids. School board members voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing school districts while still preserving priorities for school budgets and speaking out for the best interests of all children. Their tireless efforts play a significant role in the continuing success of students. Most people don’t fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members’ responsibilities. They are the local community’s voice in its schools.”

In the Ponca City Public School District, school board members must develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire community. They bear responsibility for an annual budget of \$37+ million, 5200 students, 775+ employees and 48 buildings.

School board members come from all walks of life. They are farmers, secretaries, doctors, lawyers, homemakers, architects, truck drivers, professors, business owners and real estate agents, to name a few. Although they wear many hats in the workday world, school board members put on a collective hat when they get down to the business of leading their school districts. Board members must pull together as a team toward a common goal – helping students achieve. Though they may individually disagree on certain issues, their role as a board is to consistently strive toward that goal.

Their job entails an endless string of meetings and school functions to attend; reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study; and a host of difficult decisions to make. The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading in their districts. They also work hard at seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in

community activities and spend many hours in the schools and at extracurricular events. Their love for learning, and concern and caring for students, staff and community, drives board members' desire to lead so students can achieve.

In recognition of the dedicated service, this is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to provide a better future for our children. Join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools. Make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is truly appreciated.

Ponca City Public School Board of Education

Judy Throop, President
Dr. David Kinkaid, Vice President
Marvin Clark, Member
Don Nuzum, Member
Robin Riley, Member

Pictured left to right front row: Judy Throop, Robin Riley

Back row: Dr. David Pennington, Don Nuzum, Dr. David Kinkaid, Marvin Clark

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