**Sample Editorials/Letters**

*The following sample editorials for a local newspaper can be adapted for use in your district/school newsletter or as the foundation of a speech. Customize them by adding information about your school board members, details of how board members will be honored during February and examples of ways your board has improved education for students in your district.*

*Be sure to include board members’ names and years of service.*

**Recognizing Our School Board Members**

A quality public education opens doors of opportunity for students, and providing it requires a dedicated team. School board members play a vital role in this effort, making informed decisions that shape the future of our schools.

February is a time to celebrate and honor the challenging and essential work they do for students, families, and the community. As locally elected officials, they are our neighbors, friends, and leaders, deeply invested in the success of our schools.

School boards connect community values to public education, ensuring our schools remain a pathway to opportunity. Take a moment this month to thank them for their dedication, advocacy, and commitment to making students' success their top priority.

(List names and years of service of board members)

**Honoring Our School Board Members**

School board members are essential to local decision-making in public education. They dedicate countless hours to ensuring our schools provide the best opportunities for students in our community.

During School Board Appreciation Month in February, we recognize their vital contributions:

* **Community Impact**: Board members make decisions about what students learn, who teaches them, and the facilities they use.
* **Policy Leadership**: They establish the policies that shape our schools.
* **Oversight**: Elected by voters, they oversee public education in our district, often through long and challenging meetings.
* **Continuous Learning**: They attend conferences and training to stay informed about educational issues and law.
* **Advocacy**: Board members testify before the Vermont General Assembly to represent our community’s needs.
* **Local Control**: They ensure decisions about school budgets and policies reflect the values and priorities of the community.

School boards serve as the bridge between the community and its schools, working with superintendents to oversee nearly every aspect of public education. Their dedication and civic responsibility enable local citizens to have a voice in shaping the future of public education.

Let’s take a moment this month to thank the school board members of [school district]. Their hard work and commitment help build a brighter future for our students and community.

(List names and years of service of board members)