

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION MONTH**

Written by: Dr. Nancy A. Hipskind, Superintendent

January is School Board Recognition Month as declared by Governor Granholm. It is a time to recognize the work and dedication of school board members and celebrate public education in our community.

As elected citizen leaders, individual school board members confront complex and demanding challenges. They have one of the most important volunteer jobs in our country, educating our youth.

The job of a board of education is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure that the schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. Our trustees most commonly tackle this often thankless job devoid of glory. Often we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all of the details that went into a given decision. Now is the time to thank them for their untiring efforts.

Although they wear many hats in the work place, school board members put on a collective hat when they get down to the business of leading our school district. They must pull together as a team toward a common goal - helping students achieve. Though trustees may individually disagree on certain issues, their role as a board is to consistently strive toward improving student learning.

Generally, we do not consider the personal sacrifices our school board members routinely make. Board members contribute hundreds of hours each year leading our district. The time spent in board meetings represents just a fraction of the hours school board members spend leading their districts. They also attend seminars and training sessions to stay abreast of educational trends and practices, are involved in community activities, and spend many hours attending extracurricular and other school events.

January, School Board Recognition Month, provides us with an opportunity to show our appreciation and consideration of how our local trustees work together to provide a better future for the children of the Charlotte community.

The men and women serving Charlotte Public Schools and their years of service are:

Mr. Ed Allen	2006 to present
Mr. Mike Bruce	1993 – 2006 and 2009 to present
Mrs. Julie Kimmer	2004 to present
Mrs. Diane Kirkham	2006 to present
Mr. Ron Schultheiss	2000 to present
Ms. Chelsea Tirrell	2006 to present
Mr. Bob Wilson	1989 – 2001 and 2005 to present