

Regional Board of School Trustees Membership

After Consolidation – July 1, 2015

On December 22, 2014; we contacted the State Board of Elections seeking clarification as to RBST membership after consolidation. Previously, we had been informed that those RBST members who should have had to run in the April 2015 election did not have to file nominating petitions nor run in the April election. Jane Gasperin, Director – Election Information, replied to our inquiry by citing the code below.

(105 ILCS 5/6-17) (From Ch. 122, par. 6-17)

Sec. 6-17. Election of president - Terms of members. Except as otherwise provided in Section 2A-54 of the Election Code, on the third Monday in May, following the first election, or if such day is a holiday then the next day, the regional superintendent of schools who shall be the ex-officio secretary of the board shall convene the newly elected regional board of school trustees for the purpose of organization. Except as provided in Section 2A-54 of the Election Code, at this meeting the members shall elect a president from among their number who shall serve as president for a term of 2 years and shall determine by lot the length of the term of each member so that 2 shall serve for a term of 2 years, 2 for 4 years and 3 for 6 years from the third Monday of the month following the date of their election. Except as provided in Section 2A-54 of the Election Code, thereafter members shall be elected to serve for a term of 6 years from the third Monday of the month following the date of their election or until their successors are elected and qualified.

All succeeding meetings for the purpose of organization shall be held on the third Monday in May following the election; however, in case the third Monday in May is a holiday the organization meeting shall be held on the next day.

If educational service regions are consolidated under Section 3A-3 or 3A-4 of this Act, however, the expiring terms of members of each regional board of school trustees in those regions being consolidated shall be extended so as to terminate on the first Monday of August of the year that consolidation takes effect, as defined in Section 3A-5 of this Act, and, on such day, the Regional Superintendent of the consolidated region shall convene all the members of each regional board of school trustees in the consolidated region, and shall by lot select from among such trustees an interim regional board of school trustees for the consolidated region in accord with the specifications as to membership and residency in Section 6-2. The interim board so selected shall serve until their successors are elected at the succeeding regular election of regional school trustees and have qualified. A single regional board of school trustees shall be elected at such succeeding regular election to take office on the third Monday of the month following such election. The board elected for the consolidated region shall be convened on such third Monday of the month following such election for organizational purposes, to elect a president and determine terms for its members by lot as provided in this Section. The respective regional boards of school trustees of educational service regions involved in consolidations under Section 3A-3 or 3A-4 shall cease to exist at the time the board elected for the consolidated region is so organized.

(Source: P.A. 93-847, eff. 7-30-04.)

Talking Points

- According to the above reference, all members from both RBSTs hold over until the first Monday of August of the year that consolidation takes effect (2015).
- When that date arrives (August 3, 2015), the Regional Superintendent convenes all members of each Regional Board of School Trustees in the consolidated region, and shall by lot select from among such trustees an interim Regional Board of School Trustees for the consolidated region in accord with the specifications as to membership and residency in Section 6-2.
- From Section 6-2 (specifications as to membership and residency), the RBST must have seven members and there must be one member for each of the five counties. The member must be a registered voter who has resided in the county for 28 days immediately preceding the election/appointment. Terms of office are two members serve for two years, two members serve for four years, and three members serve for six years.
- The interim RBST serves until their successors are elected at the succeeding regular election of RBST (2017).
- On the third Monday of the month following such election (third Monday in May of 2017), the newly elected RBST shall convene and hold an organizational meeting to elect a president and determine terms for its members by lot as provided in this section (two serve for two years, two serve for four years, and three serve for six years).
- In summary, from July 1, 2015 until August 3, 2015; there will be 14 RBST members. On August 3, 2015; the Regional Superintendent of Schools will call a meeting of these fourteen members and by lot select an interim RBST consisting of seven members who will serve until the next regular RBST election (2017). The seven people who are elected in the 2017 election will meet in May to organize. A president is elected and member terms are determined by lot (two year terms, four year terms, and six year terms).