**Sample Speech for School Board Recognition Month Event**

You can adapt the below speech for any School Board Recognition Month events your district might host. Customize the speech to highlight the positive impact your school board members have had in your district and community, emphasizing and detailing their hard work and passion for education.

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As elected citizen leaders, school board members face complex and demanding challenges as they advocate for the education of our students and the wellbeing of our staff. Yet, few understand the roles and responsibilities school board members accept when they are elected.

School Board Recognition Month is a wonderful opportunity for all Oklahoma citizens to recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and focus attention on the crucial role they play in the education of our children.

School board members not only help establish a vision for our district’s education program but are instrumental in implementing that vision. They manage an annual budget of $[amount] for [number] students and [number] of staff, ensuring that our district can provide as many opportunities as possible. They lay the foundation and groundwork for bond campaigns, new educational programs and other district initiatives through positive, open communication with community stakeholders.

A school board member’s work is not done when they leave the board room. Our school board members come from all walks of life. They are farmers, secretaries, doctors, lawmakers, and so much more. However, they take the time to attend numerous school functions and make sure our students are supported whether they are on the field, on the court or on the stage. The time spent in the board room represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members invest in their districts.

A love for learning, as well as dedication and care for their students, staff and community is what drives our school board members’ desire to lead – so students can achieve.

In recognition of their dedicated service, January is designated School Board Recognition Month. This is a time where our district and community can come together to show appreciation for the hardworking men and women serving on our local school board. We can grow a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities they have taken on as publicly elected officials who work tirelessly for [District] students, staff and community members. I hope you join us as we make a special effort to tell each school board member “thank you” and that their work has been noticed and truly appreciated.