

GOVERNING STYLE

The Board shall govern lawfully with an emphasis on strategic leadership on behalf of students. The Board is accountable for providing informed oversight to ensure the competent, conscientious, and effective accomplishments of the District Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan Goals, and Strategic Plan Measureable Goals.

Accordingly:

1. The Board shall cultivate and enforce a balance between the oversight role of the Board and the administrative role of the Superintendent. Accordingly, the Board shall use its' knowledge of community needs and their judgment as to the District's progress on the District Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan Goals and Strategic Plan Measureable Goals to initiate and/or approve new or revised policy. The Board shall consistently use relevant data and expertise regarding federal, state, contractual, and staff needs, provided by the Superintendent, in initiating and requesting new policy and policy revision and in consideration of policy approval. The Superintendent may also initiate policy and recommend new policy and policy revision to the Board.
2. The Board shall honor diverse viewpoints from the community and staff but not substitute individual expertise or interests for the judgment of the Board although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the Board as a body.
3. The Board shall govern the District with informed oversight through the careful establishment of broadly written policies reflecting the needs of the District's students and the community's values and perspectives. The Board's major policy focus shall be on addressing:
 - a. locally defined needs and issues;
 - b. meeting the educational interests of all students;
 - c. supporting progress toward the District Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan Goals and District Strategic Plan Measureable Goals.
 - d. and improve learning for all students.

In order to provide informed oversight, the Superintendent shall ensure that the Board is knowledgeable of administrative and programmatic means of attaining those effects, but the Board shall delegate the implementation of policy and procedures to the Superintendent. By doing so, the Board shall maintain a balanced role with the Superintendent.

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4. The Board shall receive information from the Superintendent, which reflects the progress or the need for improvement toward the District Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan Goals; and Strategic Plan Measureable Goals. The Board may craft within policy, tracking and reporting protocols for the Superintendent to ensure quality control and the necessary data to practice informed oversight. Superintendent or staff reporting to Board, and all printed reports presented as part of Board meetings shall, at a minimum, follow the Balanced Governance™ Tracking and Reporting protocols. The Superintendent provides data to the Board on the measureable outcomes of all programs that they have approved.
5. The Board shall maintain a professional relationship with District leadership, faculty, and staff. All Board member requests for significant information, data or reports, reporting community or staff complaints or concerns, and requests for substantive staff assistance shall be made exclusively through the Superintendent.
 - a. The Board shall have direct and personal access to the Superintendent for the purpose of requesting the compilation of reports or significant information, and for reporting staff or community concerns and complaints.
 - b. The Board shall hold the Superintendent responsible for acting on and communicating timely updates to Board members regarding request for information or reports of family/community or staff concerns.
6. Concerns regarding School Board member/Superintendent communication, the timely implementation of policy and procedures, or responses to the staff and community regarding a Board-reported complaint shall be addressed with the Superintendent through one or more of the following:
 - a. The Progressive Response process described in Policy 7274.
 - b. The Formative Superintendent Evaluation process
7. The Board shall engage fully in matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, adherence to the Board standards, and personal adherence to the Individual Board Member Conduct.

Although the Board can change its governance process policies at any time, it shall observe them scrupulously while they are in force. Board members shall be encouraged to follow their governance policies through:

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- a) Review and discussion of Policies 7271 & 7273: Board Members' Code of Ethics and Conduct, during a Board meeting regularly.
- b) The Board President following and enforcing clear and written meeting protocols as described in Policies 7320, Meetings of the Board and 7323, Meeting Conduct.
- c) Board members who fail to follow governance policies, either during or outside of a Board meeting shall be addressed using the Governance Progressive Response process as described in Policy 7274.
- d) Continuous Board development shall include orientation of new Board members in the Board's governance process and organization of the District. New Board member orientation should occur before the new member's first Board meeting if possible. Seated Board members should receive on-going, annual training in effective governance.
- e) The Board shall conduct a review of their annual self-assessment results annually. Governance policies shall also be reviewed and revised at this meeting, as needed.