

School Board

School District Governance

The District is governed by a Board of Education consisting of 7 members. The Board's powers and duties include the broad authority to adopt and enforce all necessary policies for the management and government of the public schools.

Official action by School Board members may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. A "Meeting" is defined as any gathering at which a quorum of the School Board physically present.

School Board members, as individuals, have no authority over school affairs, except as provided by law or as authorized by the Board.

Governing Style

The Board will govern with emphasis on organizational vision rather than on interpersonal issues of the Board; encourage diversity in viewpoints; engage in strategic leadership rather than administrative detail; observe clear distinction between the roles of the Board and CEO; make collective rather than individual decisions; exhibit future orientation rather than past or present; and govern proactively rather than reactively.

Accordingly:

1. The Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Board, not the CEO or staff, will be responsible for governing with excellence. The Board will work in partnership with the CEO and staff to initiate policy. The Board will use the expertise of individual Board members to enhance the ability of the board as a body, but the Board will not substitute individual member judgments for the Board's collective values.
2. The Board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. This self-discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuity of governance capability.
3. The Board will direct, control and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of written policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives. The board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term benefits for its clients, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those benefits.
4. Continuous Board development will include orientation of new members in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of ways to improve the Board's performance.

5. The Board will allow no officer, individual or committee of the Board to hinder or be an excuse for the Board's not fulfilling its commitments.
6. The Board will monitor its process and performance at each meeting. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Staff Relationship categories.

LEGAL REF.: Illinois School Code, Sec. 10-1, 10-10, and 10-20.5 (105 ILCS 5/10-1, 5/10-10, and 5/10-20.5);
Illinois Open Meetings Act, Sec. 1.02 (5 ILCS 120/1.02); and
23 Ill.Admin.Code § 1.210b(5).

CROSS REF.: 1.10

Adopted: March 27, 1997
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