

Unity of Purpose

We affirm the unique role of public education, whereby each community collectively pools its resources for the common good through the education of its students. Therefore, we seek to uphold and improve public education for our community.

- We want to build trust and move the district forward.
- We want to become an effective team.
- We want to understand our individual jobs and collective responsibilities.
- We want to be a team with a common, focused direction.
- We want to create a district culture that supports positive change.
- We want to perpetuate a positive district culture that survives in the face of board member and staff turnover.

Please refer to the IASB Policy Reference Manual:

2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board

2:80-E Board Member Code of Conduct

Concerns from the community and staff (“Customer” concerns)

- Board members will listen carefully, remembering they are only hearing one side of the story.
- Board members will then direct that person to the person in the district most appropriate (Chain of Command) who is able to help them resolve their concern.
- Board members handling concerns in this manner will clarify that one board member has no individual authority to fix a problem.
- Board members will call the superintendent if they think this is an issue of concern.

Speaking with one voice

- Board members have an obligation to express their opinions and respect others’ opinions.
- Board members understand the importance of speaking with one clear voice to both the Superintendent and the community.
- The Superintendent is accountable only to the full Board of Education.
- Board members have the right to disagree with the decision of the Board, but will support the Board in its decision by abiding by the will of the majority.
- No individual board member other than the Board President, has the authority to act or speak on behalf of the Board without the consent of the Board.

Asking questions about items on upcoming meeting agendas

- Whenever possible, board members will contact the Superintendent with any questions on the agenda prior to the board meeting.
- Board members understand that although they are asking the question(s) prior to the meeting, they have a right to ask the question(s) at the meeting as well.

No Surprises

- No one (Superintendent or board members) gets surprised at any time – in the meeting or between meetings.
- The truth of no surprises is respect for all participants and the process.
- In the spirit of the “No Surprises” Board Agreement, board members will explain their “no” vote prior to voting, unless there has been discussion of the topic at a previous meeting at which time the board members’ opinions have been shared.

Agenda development

- Board members who wish to have an item placed on the agenda will email the Superintendent and “cc” the Board President.
- Prior to the meeting, the Board President and Superintendent will confer on the agenda.
- No staff time will be spent researching the agenda item until a majority of the Board has agreed to discuss an agenda item.

Communicating with the media

- The Board President is the spokesperson for the board to the media.
- The Superintendent is the spokesperson for the District.

Email to board members from website

- The district website will include a link to email all board members, as well as links to email individual board members.
- Individual board members will choose how to respond to the email by either a general response, or a personalized response to each email.
- Board members will forward any emails with questions of a staff nature to the Superintendent, and to the Board President if the response requires a response speaking for the Board.

Board member request for information

- Individual board members will self-monitor to ensure one person's request for information does not divert an inappropriate amount of time from staff efforts to achieve district goals. Board members will ask for information that they “need” to know in order to make an informed decision, rather than what’s “nice” to know.
- Should the Superintendent determine that a request for information may require more than 30 minutes to fulfill, at his discretion he may bring that request to the Board for a consensus to proceed.
- At the discretion of the Superintendent, one member’s request for additional information results in all members receiving or having the same access to the information. (“One gets, all gets.”)

Approval of minutes

- Board members may vote to approve meeting minutes for meetings at which they were not present.

Board member behavior

- Board members will “presume positive intention” when interacting with the Superintendent or other board members.
- Board members will ask questions with the intention of “getting to yes” in order to support the Superintendent’s recommendation.