



Expectations of a School Board Member

A high quality school board is a fundamental and vital part of any good school district. School board members who understand the work before them and do it with integrity and transparency build trust and credibility for the district they serve.

Board Work: What's Our Role?

- Clarify district purpose
- Connect with the community
- Employ a superintendent
- Delegate authority
- Monitor district performance
- Take responsibility for themselves

Board Work: Specific Tools

Governing Documents include:

- School Board Policy
- The District's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)
- The Budget
- The Superintendent Evaluation
- The District Professional Development Plan
- The Open meeting Agenda

Board Tools: Governing Documents

Governing Documents Direct or Control:

- Legal compliance/liability risk
- Long-term district goals
- Expenditure of public funds
- Employment/evaluation standards
- Staff training/improvement standards
- Open meeting focus and work

Focus of Board Work:

- Boards provide Governance Leadership
- Boards act with their vote, using their governing documents
- Boards determine "what"
- The superintendent works for the board
- Superintendents provide Administrative Leadership
- Administrators act through procedure
- Administrators determine "how"
- District staff work for the superintendent

Board Meeting Expectations

Board Action

No one person, or group of persons, acts in the name of the Board. When an item of business comes before the Board in the form of a motion, it is necessary that a majority of votes be cast in favor of the motion for the Board to act. Members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individual Board members.

Public Comment

While the public is encouraged to attend Board of Education meetings to become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools, they are not public forums. Most school districts include opportunity for the public to comment on agenda items during the meetings; however, this is a time for board members to listen rather than engage in a discussion. School districts are encouraged to hold town halls and other events that allow for constructive commentary and two-way communications.

Closed Sessions

State law provides that all meetings of governmental bodies (including school boards and multi-member bodies created by the boards) shall be open sessions unless a closed session is expressly permitted by law. For the most part, closed sessions are normally held to discuss student and personnel matters. A governmental body may hold a closed session only by an affirmative public vote of majority of members present at the meeting and only to the extent a closed session meets the guidelines established by statute.