

## **Governing Commitments**

The Board will govern lawfully with primary emphasis on **Results** for every student; encourage full exploration of diverse viewpoints; focus on governance matters rather than administrative issues; observe clear separation of Board and Superintendent roles; make all official decisions by formal vote of the Board; and govern with long-term vision.

1. The Board will function as a single body. The opinions and personal strengths of individual members will be used to the Board's best advantage, but the Board faithfully will make decisions as a group, by formal vote.
2. The Board is responsible for its own governing performance. The Board will ensure that its members are provided with training and professional support necessary for quality governance, skills and knowledge. As a means to ensure continuous improvement, the Board regularly and systematically will monitor all policies in this section, and regularly will assess the effectiveness of its meetings.

To ensure that the Board's business meetings are conducted with maximum effectiveness and efficiency, members will:

- a. come to meetings adequately prepared and on time
  - b. speak only when recognized
  - c. not interrupt each other
  - d. not engage in side conversations
  - e. not repeat what has already been said
  - f. not "play to the audience" or monopolize the discussion
  - g. support the president's efforts to facilitate an orderly meeting
  - h. communicate openly and actively in discussion and dialogue to avoid surprises
  - i. encourage equal participation of all members
  - j. practice respectful body language
3. The Board will use a consent agenda as a means to expedite the disposition of routine matters and to dispose of other items of business it chooses not to discuss. All administrative matters delegated to the Superintendent that are required to be approved by the Board will be acted upon by the Board via the consent agenda. An item may be removed from the consent agenda for separate discussion upon request of an individual member.
  4. The Board will direct the organization through policy. The Board's major policy focus will be on the results expected to be achieved by students, rather than on the strategic choices made by the Superintendent and staff to achieve those results.
  5. The Board commits itself to continuous improvement. In pursuit of this objective, continuous Board development will include orientation of candidates for the Board and new members of the Board about the Board's governance culture and processes for conducting Board business. In addition, the Board will avail itself of whatever training it determines necessary for excellent Board performance.

6. The Board is committed to govern as a single body. Therefore, no officer, individual, or committee of the Board will be permitted to limit the Board's performance or prevent the Board from fulfilling its commitments.
7. The Board, by majority vote, may revise or amend its policies at any time. As a customary practice, a proposed policy revision will be discussed at one session of the Board prior to being approved at a subsequent Board meeting.

**Legal Reference:**

**EDUCATION CODE**

5304 Governing board; duties  
12400 Authority to receive benefits and expend funds; agreements  
17565-17592.5 Board duties re property maintenance and control  
33319.5 Implementation of authority of local agencies  
35000 District name  
35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules  
35160 Authority of governing boards commencing January 1, 1976  
35164 Vote requirements  
35020-35046 Officers and agents  
35100-35401 Governing Boards  
35160 Authority of governing boards commencing January 1, 1976  
1:\WP\PSU\5-Board Policies\LTR Gov BD Policies JMC 041607.wpd  
35160-35192 Powers and Duties  
35291 Rules

**GOVERNMENT CODE**

1090 Financial interest in contract  
1098 Disclosure of confidential information  
1125-1129 Incompatible activities  
54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act  
87300-87313 Conflict of Interest Code

Adopted: April 24, 2007

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Revised: June 29, 2021

**Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment**

**Monitoring Frequency: Annually**