



Board Governance Policies BP 05-10

Board Policy: Governing Process and Style

The board will govern lawfully, observing the principles of policy governance, with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of board and Superintendent/CEO roles, (e) collective rather than individual decisions, (f) future rather than past or present, and (g) proactivity rather than reactivity.

Accordingly,

1. The board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governance. The board will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute 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.
2. The board will direct, control, and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the board's values and perspectives. The board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the staff organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.
3. The board will enforce upon itself whatever accountability is needed to govern with excellence. Accountability will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policy-making principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuance of governance capability. Although the board can change its governance process policies at any time, it will scrupulously observe those currently in force.

4. Continual board development will include orientation of new board members in the board's governance process and periodic board discussion of process improvement.
5. The board will allow no officer, individual, or committee of the board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling group obligations.
6. The board will monitor and discuss the board's process and performance at each meeting. Self-monitoring will include comparison of board activity and accountability to policies as well as key priorities and objectives.

Board Approved: 09/21/10