

# BOARD OF EDUCATION AGREEMENTS 2017-2019

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## **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*

## **Speaking with one voice**

- No Board member has the authority to act or speak on behalf of the board without the consent of the board.
- Board members have an obligation to express their opinions and respect others' opinions; however board members understand the importance of ultimately speaking with one clear voice and supporting the decision of the majority.

## **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.

## **No surprises!**

- No one (superintendent or board member) gets surprised at any time – in the meeting or between meetings.
- The truth of no surprises is respect. Each board member and superintendent must respect all the other participants and the processes the board team shares.

## **Board member request for information**

- 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.
- Should the superintendent determine that a request for information may require a significant amount of time to fulfill, he may bring that request to the board for a consensus that he should proceed.
- When an individual board member requests information, it will be provided to all board members unless the board member requests otherwise.

**Board member use of email**

- Board members will be judicious in their use of email and understand that most emails concerning district business are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and as such may be made public.
- In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, board members will not “reply to all” to any district email.

**Asking general questions or questions about items on upcoming meeting agendas**

- Whenever possible, board members will call the superintendent or business manager prior to the meeting with questions.
- 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.

**Board meeting preparation**

- Board members expect to receive the board packet by the Friday before the Monday board meeting, and one week prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting. Board members understand that at times there may be extenuating circumstances that delay the distribution of the board packet.
- Board members will read the board packet and supporting documentation before the board meeting.

**Behavioral expectations**

- Start with the common belief that everyone has good intentions.
- Create a safe environment for the productive exchange of ideas.
- Sincerely listen and seek to understand the viewpoints of others.
- Solve problems through a collaborative process where all participants support the decision and actively work toward its implementation.

**Board member use of social media**

- Board members will be cognizant of the potential impact of commenting and/or replying to comments made on social media sites.
- Board members will use discretion when making posts on district related topics.
- No more than one board member will comment on a post made by another board member on district related topics to avoid an actual or perceived violation of the Open Meetings Act.