Policy 202 – School Board Governing Style

The board will govern lawfully with emphasis on outcomes for students rather than on interpersonal issues; encourage diversity of viewpoints; focus on strategic leadership rather than on administrative detail; observe clear distinction between board and superintendent roles; make collective rather than individual decisions; exhibit future orientation rather than past or present; and govern proactively rather than reactively.

Accordingly:

1. The board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The board will be responsible for excellent governance performance. The board will use the expertise of individual board members to enhance the performance of the board as a whole, but it will not substitute the judgments and opinions of individual members for the board’s collective values. The board governs best through its collective voice.

2. The board will hold itself accountable for the quality of its governing performance and ensure the long-term capacity for excellent governance in the district. This self-discipline will apply to attendance, preparation for and participation in meetings, adherence to both the principles of the board’s governing model and to the policies themselves, and respect of roles.

3. The board will direct and inspire the district through the careful establishment of a strategic plan and written policies reflecting the board’s understanding of the community’s values and perspectives. The board’s major policy focus will be on the intended long-term benefits for students, and generally will not be on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those benefits. The board may require information about such means to ensure it can effectively oversee whether the benefits are achieved.

4. The board will govern in a manner that is transparent to the public and encourages meaningful engagement with community members.

5. The board will offer orientation about the board’s governance role to candidates running for the school board.

6. The board will take responsibility for its continuous development beginning with orientation of new members, ongoing training and periodic discussion and evaluation of the board’s processes to ensure continued improvement.

7. The board, by majority vote, may revise or amend its policies at any time.

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