



Dalton Board of Education *Governance Team Norms*

The Dalton Board of Education and Superintendent comprise the governance team for our district. We are committed to working together to provide strategic leadership and direction for the district that sets high expectations for student achievement and student success in college, career and civic life.

The following commitments, “norms”, and protocols shall guide the Board and Superintendent in their work.

Setting Direction

- The DPS Governance Team affirms the district’s mission, vision and values and is committed to setting goals and priorities coupled with accountability to ensure these shared beliefs are promoted and upheld.
 - The goals and priorities of the district shall be clearly defined through a Board-approved strategic plan that supports a vision of high expectations for student achievement, quality instruction and profound learning.

Making Decisions

- Per Georgia State Board of Education Standards, the governance team works to demonstrate a “unified approach to governing the school system” (Domain I, Standard B). Practically, this encourages us to affirm the ideal that the Board and Superintendent must operate as a team. The Board respects the Superintendent’s role as the Chief Executive Officer of the district and the importance of the chain of command. Board members do not act unilaterally but rather will act as one body to make decisions, issue directives, set strategic priorities and establish policies. Individual Board members are entitled to ask questions at a reasonable time, in the appropriate setting and in a respectful manner and receive timely answers; these questions shall be directed through the Superintendent and must be respectful of the staff’s time.
 - Once a decision is properly made by a majority of the Board, all Board members should respect this decision and commit to its successful implementation.

Communications

- The Governance Team is committed to establishing and maintaining clear communications with one another to support district goals and effective operations.
 - The Superintendent will meet with and communicate with all Board members regularly. Board members may always contact the Superintendent.

- The Superintendent will notify the Board as soon as possible by phone or text for school, staff or student emergencies.
- Board packets and supporting documentation shall be made available to the Board at least two to three business days before the scheduled meeting (i.e.- on or before Thursday prior to a Monday night Board meeting). Board members should come to meetings prepared to discuss items on the agenda.
- Team members shall proactively communicate with one another and the Superintendent to avoid surprises and any one team member being excluded or unprepared for a topic of discussion or decision.
- The Board Chair is the official spokesperson for the Board of Education. Additionally, he should work to encourage Board consensus on controversial issues and ensure that consensus is clearly communicated to the Superintendent. The Vice-Chair may assist the Chair in these areas and will assume these roles in the absence of the Chair.

Advocacy and Engagement

- The Governance Team is committed to serving and being ambassadors for Dalton Public Schools and shall seek to utilize interactions within the community to champion the district's mission and vision while informing and engaging stakeholders on the work of the district and its priorities.
 - Board members are encouraged to visit schools and attend school or district functions. Board members should ensure the principal is informed when they conduct a school visit; additionally, board members should avoid school visits during testing or other similarly intense times.
 - The Superintendent shall keep the Board informed of events and functions where Board presence is important or desired.

Board Meetings


- The DPS Governance Team desires to be a well-functioning and effective board. We agree to listen well to each other and all speakers and presenters. We believe our words and demeanor matter and should be marked by professionalism, decency, and respect. We understand that we may not always agree but we can disagree with civility. We understand that our individual and collective behavior at meetings should set a positive example that reflects well upon Dalton Public Schools and models the behaviors expected of staff and students.
 - Board meetings should not involve surprises. The Superintendent and Board Chair work together—per district policy—to set the agenda. Requests for an item to be placed on the agenda should be submitted in advance to the Board Chair.
 - Board meetings shall follow appropriate parliamentary procedure. The Board Chair shall ensure one person speaks at a time and that each Board member has an equal opportunity to participate. Additionally, the Board Chair shall ensure the policies for public comment are followed.

We, the Dalton Board of Education and Superintendent, affirm the above protocols and commitments and affirm them as vital to the effective leadership and operation of our school district.



Matt Evans


Jody McClurg


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Sam Sanders


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Dr. Tim Scott
Superintendent/Board Secretary