

OPERATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education of Western Heights Independent School District, elected by the people of the district and given legal authority by the statutes of the State of Oklahoma, has the responsibility for (1) adopting rules, regulations, policies and by-laws as the members of the Board deem proper; (2) controlling, managing and governing the schools of the district.

The school system of Western Heights is so large that a carefully prepared statement of policies and regulations governing the administration and operation of its schools is requisite to effective coordination and direction of the school program. The administrative staff employed by the Board is directed, therefore, to prepare a comprehensive statement of policies and regulations to be used as a guide for the operation of the schools.

This statement should embody those policies that have been developed by precedent without formal adoption, and such statements of policy as well clarify practices now generally in use, as well as policy statements needed to give direction to the employed staff of the schools. It is not intended that this statement of policies and regulations will change presently employed policies but rather that these policies shall be brought together in one document for quick and ready reference and that such additional policy statements as may be needed to give direction to and authority for school operation may be developed.

The Board may at its discretion accept, revise or reject policy statements. The completed statement shall be in such form as may permit easy and convenient addition or revision as the Board develops new statements of policy or revises those previously adopted.

The following statements concerning board operational philosophy shall guide the staff in the preparation of the statement of policies and regulations.

1. The Board of Education of Western Heights Independent School District conceives its responsibilities to include the control and management of the schools. But as a lay board, it is not possible to give personal attention to much of the time-consuming and detailed operation of the program. Therefore, the administration of the schools is delegated to supervisory personnel.
2. The Board assumes responsibility for adopting policies affecting school operation, electing certificated personnel, adopting the fiscal budget, approving plans for providing physical plant facilities approving plans for instructional program, reviewing reports made by the employed staff and generally evaluating the effectiveness of the school program.
3. The unit type of school administration, with general responsibility for school operation delegated to the Superintendent and with other employed personnel responsible to the Superintendent, is the approval plan of operation for Western Heights Schools.
4. The general plan of organization of the employed staff shall be developed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.
5. The Board operates as a unit with special committees assigned as a particular task as the need arises but without the use of standing committees. Individual members of the Board or committees of the Board have no authority to act for the Board, except in the case of temporary powers delegated by the Board for a specific assignment.

6. Public schools are established and maintained to provide for the desirable mental, physical, social and emotional development of youth. Development of fundamental skills essential to successful living in a complex society shall be a major objective of the public schools. However, the schools must also be concerned with sound development of personality, emotional balance, and moral and spiritual values.

It is the desire of the Board of Education that these principles be embodied in a statement of policies and regulations which may give effective direction to the school program without unnecessarily restricting the desirable educational activities of the schools. May it be a tool to serve and give directions rather than an autocratic master to be slavishly followed, which would impede efforts directed toward a better Western Heights Public School System.

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