

BOARD POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Background

The Mt. Lebanon School Board, consisting of nine individuals, acts as a legislative body to govern the Mt. Lebanon School District within the framework of federal, state and local laws and regulations. The powers and duties of the Board shall be conferred as prescribed by the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended. The authority of the Board is defined as what is explicitly authorized or what laws and the regulations necessarily imply. No Board member has legal authority as an individual, outside of public meetings, unless authorized by a vote or resolution of the majority of the Board.

The Board shall act as the governing body in the determination of general policies for the control, operation, and maintenance of the District. It shall give due consideration to legal requirements, sound educational procedures, community input, and, above all, the safety and educational welfare of the students of the District.

Objective

The objective of this policy is to define and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Board.

Policy

The role of the Board is to:

1. Clearly define, articulate, and adopt the mission of the District with input from District stakeholders;
2. Develop the long- and short-term goals of the District;
3. Develop and maintain policies for the effective and efficient governance and operation of the District;
4. Monitor the overall performance of the District on a continuing basis;
5. Employ a Superintendent to manage the District and regularly evaluate his/her performance;
6. Be an advocate for public education and children; and
7. Comply with all laws, rules, and regulations relative to the District.

The Board considers that its most important functions fall into the following categories:

1. *Legislative or Policymaking.* The Board is responsible for the development of policy and for the employment of a Superintendent who will carry out its policies and, where necessary, will develop and implement procedures in furtherance of those policies.

2. *Educational Planning and Appraisal.* The Board is responsible for establishing educational goals which will guide both the Board and the staff in working together toward the continued improvement of the District's educational programs. The Board is responsible for requiring appraisals of the results of the educational program.
3. *Personnel.* The Board is responsible for employing adequate staff necessary for carrying out the instructional program and establishing salaries and salary schedules and other terms and conditions of employment, as well as for personnel policies District-wide in application.
4. *Financial Resources.* The Board is responsible for adopting a budget that will provide the financial basis for buildings, staff, materials, and equipment which will enable the District to carry out the educational program. The Board is responsible for exercising control over the finances of the District to ensure proper use of, and accounting for, all District funds.
5. *School Facilities.* The Board is responsible for determining building needs, for communicating these needs to the community, and for approving building plans that will support and enhance the educational program.
6. *Communication with Public.* The Board is responsible for providing adequate and direct means for keeping the community informed about the schools and for keeping itself informed about the views of the public.
7. *Judicial.* Where a Board hearing is required by law, the Board will serve in a judicial role.

Communication

This Policy shall be communicated to:

1. District Staff
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted November 21, 2005
Revised October 15, 2018
Reviewed April 11, 2022