



Pennsylvania School Boards Association Principles for Governance and Leadership

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing **every** student the opportunity to grow and achieve. The actions taken by the board ultimately have both short and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, school directors collectively and individually will...



Advocate Earnestly

Promote public education as a keystone of democracy

Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action

Champion public education by engaging members of local, state and federal legislative bodies



Lead Responsibly

Prepare for, attend and actively participate in board meetings

Work together in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation

Participate in professional development, training and board retreats

Collaborate with the Superintendent as the Team of 10



Govern Effectively

Adhere to an established set of rules and procedures for board operations

Develop, adopt, revise and review policy

Align decisions to policy

Differentiate between governance and management, delegating management tasks to administration

Allocate finances and resources

Ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws



Plan Thoughtfully

Adopt and implement a collaborative comprehensive planning process, including regular reviews

Set annual goals that are aligned with the comprehensive plan

Develop a financial plan that anticipates both short and long-term needs

Formulate a master facilities plan conducive to teaching and learning



Evaluate Continuously

Utilize appropriate data to make informed decisions

Use effective practices for the evaluation of the superintendent

Assess student growth and achievement

Review effectiveness of the comprehensive plan



Communicate Clearly

Promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff and community

Encourage input and support for the district from the school community

Protect confidentiality

Honor the sanctity of executive session



Act Ethically

Never use the position for improper benefit to self or others

Act to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest

Recognize the absence of authority outside of the collective board

Respect the role, authority and input of the superintendent

Balance the responsibility to provide educational programs with being stewards of community resources

Abide by the majority decision

Represented by the signatures below, adoption of these principles assures the school board, individual school directors and chief school administrators adhere to the same principles across our commonwealth. Adopted on: 1/18/2022

James Schager
James J. Vanecko
Patricia K. Key

Juliano Guido
Michael Watson

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