



MISD Board of Directors
Running for and Serving on the Board
Candidate Orientation
2023

Great Time to Consider Board Service

- Continue to implement the District's Values, Vision and Mission, monitor the District's Fundamentals and Operational Expectations, and set District policy
- Adopt the annual operating budget and approve instructional programming
- Make decisions on placing levies and bonds before voters
- Participate in the District's long-range facilities planning decisions
- Work with outstanding new leadership team
- Join Mercer Island as a continuing leader in the region and state



Becoming a Board Member

- Board candidates must be residents of Mercer Island and registered to vote in Washington State
- Board members, their spouses and their dependents may not be employed by the District (unless prior to election)
- Candidates and elected officials must file financial disclosure statements
- Candidates must declare their candidacy with King County Elections between May 15-19 for Board Position 1, 3 or 5 (4-year term)
- Primary Election will take place on August 1 if more than two candidates file for a single position
- General election will be held on November 7
- Newly elected board members take office following election result certification, typically the second week in December



Board is High Performing

- Selected a governance system in 2005 and is guided by policy governance
- Excellent working relationship with superintendent
- Collegial and productive working relationships with fellow board members
- Viewed positively by stakeholders: MIEA, school leaders, parents, community members
- Board includes MIHS student representatives with advisory voting rights



What is Policy Governance?

Policy Governance allows the Board to:

- Focus on the larger issues
- Clearly delegate authority with clean boundaries
- Evaluate superintendent's performance without interfering
- Evaluate the entire system on what is accomplished



Policy Governance Tools

Rules of Engagement

- Values, Vision, Mission: *Students are the Priority*
- Student-Focused Five Fundamentals (goals)
- Operational Expectations
 - Created, fine-tune, and monitor
- Board/Superintendent Relationship
 - Created, fine-tune, and monitor
- Governance Process
 - Created, fine tune, and monitor



A Few Rules of the Road

- The Board speaks with one voice
- The Board only has one employee
- The Board directs the “what” but not the “how”
- The Board is not involved in any personnel decisions (except regarding the superintendent)
- Everything that comes before the Board is either a policy matter or a function of law



Time Commitment

- The Board generally has two regular meetings a month, but there are frequently special meetings as well as potential executive and exempt sessions, meetings with the community and the Superintendent, and other functions
- Each Board member will serve on 3-4 District committees and/or in a leadership role
- Duties involve an average minimum of 18-20 hours per month
- Washington State School Directors' Association offers training and networking for board members, some of which is required



A Few Things We've Learned

- If you are passionate about changing a school program or something that is the responsibility of the Superintendent or a principal, becoming a Board member is not your best avenue. You will be both frustrated and largely ineffective.
- If you have kids in the schools, you have to be able to wear your “parent hat” in some situations and your “board member hat” in others
- It helps to really like working at the policy level





Conversation and Questions