FPS Board of Education Governance Committee

The Fargo Board of Education operates under a policy governance model. With the policy governance model, there are clear distinctions between the role of the superintendent and the Board. Under this model of policy governance, it is the Board's responsibility to set polices by which the District's schools are administered, and the superintendent's responsibility to administer educational programs and conduct school business.

The nine members of the Board all serve on 2-3 regular committee assignments with representatives from administration. Each year, the Board president assigns members to the following committees: Governmental Affairs, Planning, Negotiations, Communications, Engagement, and Advocacy and/or Governance. These committees meet regularly on at least a quarterly basis and allow for more detailed coordination, discussion, and planning to support the work of the entire Board.

Any Board member is welcome to attend a committee meeting, even if they are not assigned to that committee. Any Board member can also request that an item be added to a committee agenda by contacting the committee chair. The Fargo Public Schools superintendent and various members of District administration are present at committee meetings to assist with committee work. Committee meetings are open to the public and more detailed information can be found within Board Policy GP-6.

The Governance Committee helps guide and support the Board by ensuring it adheres to healthy and productive governance practices. Strong governance allows the Board to focus on its primary goal, student achievement, and its organizational vision rather than interpersonal issues.

This committee is comprised of the Board president and vice president and the chairs of the other standing committees. The Board president serves as Governance Committee chair. FPS administration contributes to the Governance Committee and the superintendent, along with the entire cabinet (board secretary and parliamentarian, assistant superintendents, human capital officer, FPS legal counsel, and business manager) all attend committee meetings. The Governance Committee meets monthly, and members are assigned annually.

A primary objective of the Board is to accomplish goals that promote District and student achievement. A primary objective of the Governance Committee is monitoring, refining, and sometimes creating new Board policy or governance procedures to do this better.

The Governance Committee often brings policy recommendations forward to the entire Board. This sometimes means reviewing and recommending changes to the Board's policies to promote better governance. This committee also assists the Board president and superintendent in Board meeting agenda planning and offers structure and organization by regularly reviewing the Agenda Planning Calendar (per GP-8E).

The Governance Committee cannot take official Board action outside of the traditional agenda planning process. As with the other Board committees, members may contact the president to suggest items for the agenda. Governance also recommends activities for Board development (i.e. new member orientation, Board work sessions, and others) and assists the president in completing the superintendent annual review, which is then brought to the full Board for approval. Also, each year, non-officer Governance committee members canvass Board members about their interest in serving as president or vice president of the Board for the upcoming year.

Governance is a vital component of a well-functioning Board working towards achieving FPS's goals. This committee continually works to support governance practices that are informed, knowledgeable, and fair. This ultimately sets the Board up for success and allows the Board to prioritize the success of the students, families, teachers and staff. More specific information regarding the governance process and the role of specific committees can be found in Board Policy GP-7.