Beginning Boardsmanship Workshop



January 6, 2025
Dorothy Inghram Learning Center

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
Transforming lives through education

San Bernardino County **School Boards Association**

CALL TO ORDER

Cynthia Gardner

President,
San Bernardino County School Boards Association

Board Member,
Rim of the World Unified School District

MODERATOR

Dr. Scott Wyatt, Board Member
San Bernardino City Unified School District

WELCOME VIDEO

Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent
San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools



PANEL INTRODUCTION

Dr. Scott Wyatt, Board Member
San Bernardino City Unified School District

Panel Members

Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Board Member, San Bernardino County Board of Education

Karen Gray, Board Member, Silver Valley Unified School District

Cynthia Gardner, Board Member, Rim of the World Unified SD

Dick Bray, Former Superintendent, Hesperia Unified SD

Dr. Scott Wyatt, Board Member, San Bernardino City Unified SD

Board Packets and Agendas

Dr. Scott Wyatt, Board Member
San Bernardino City Unified SD

Board Packets and Agendas

- Materials:
  - Sample board meeting packet
  - Professional Governance Standards (district, county and superintendents)
- Quality relationships with board colleagues and superintendent are key to success
- Develop your leadership and governance skills with your district team
- SBCSS supports board members and district staff through:
  - SBCSBA
  - SANDABS
  - Educational services
  - Financial support

Board Packets and Agendas

- Your agenda and board packet are guiding documents:
  - Delivered 72 hours before meeting
  - Includes agenda, documents and analysis to support decisions
  - ASK QUESTIONS if you need more clarity or a deeper understanding
- Agendas vary from district to district, however, there are legal requirements that all need to adhere to
- Review items for consent

Board Packets and Agendas

- Comment and communication (public, board and staff)
- Community connections and conflict of interest
- Reports and updates: Action items
- Closed session: Regulated by Brown Act

MEETING PROTOCOLS

Cynthia Gardner, Board Member
Rim of the World Unified SD

Meeting Protocols

- Roberts Rules of Order: Legal, fair and organized
  1. Motion
  2. Second
  3. Discussion
  4. Public may request to address board
  5. Vote
- Board of trustees meeting, *it's not a public meeting*
- Boards, not individual trustees, govern districts

Meeting Protocols

- To take action, item must be on the adopted agenda
- Adjusting protocols is a team effort, patience and discussion are key
- Superintendent Engagement:
  - Be prepared, read your packet and get clarification from your superintendent
  - The superintendent is there to assist you in your understanding of district issues, however, their primary responsibility is the day-to-day operations of the district
  - Work with your superintendent and board president to add agenda items

Meeting Protocols

Respect the roles of your governance team:

The role of the board is strategic:	**The role of the superintendent is tactical:**
a) Sets board policies for the operation of the district b) Sets district goals c) Delegates authority to and through the superintendent to administer the district d) Approves/disapproves recommendations of the superintendent e) Evaluates the performance of the superintendent	a) Runs and operates the district according to the policies set by the board b) Leads staff toward the achievement of district goals set by the board c) Assigns and directs staff d) Evaluates staff

Communication and Engagement

Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
Board President,
San Bernardino County Board of Education

Communication and Engagement

- Demonstrate that our primary focus are the students
- Rules of Engagement—Confidentiality
  - Brown Act prohibits a majority of the board to discuss business outside of a duly called board meeting
  - Does not prohibit on-going congenial/supportive communication
- Legal requirements of closed session confidentiality
  - A person may not disclose confidential information acquired in a closed session to a person not entitled to receive it, unless the legislative body authorizes disclosure of that confidential information

Communication and Engagement

- Social Media communication:

  Two-prong test enumerated by the Supreme Court:

  - Public official's social media activity constitutes state action under [42 U.S.C.] § 183 only if the official (1) possessed actual authority to speak on the State's behalf, and (2) purported to exercise that authority when he spoke on social media."

WORKING BREAK

- Hold a table discussion about what has been learned thus far
- Gather and/or submit any questions you have for the panel

About Key Organizations

CSBA *is the California School Boards Association, our parent organization. CSBA draws its membership from 1,000 school districts and county offices of education. CSBA offers the Masters in Governance training, the Annual Education Conference, and a number of fee-based services and workshops including its sample policy service.*

SBCSBA *is the San Bernardino County School Boards Association. SBCSBA has three general membership meetings each school year. The Executive Committee meets five or six times per year and is made up of officers, representatives from all regions of the county, and members who also are elected to the CSBA Delegate Assembly.*

SANDABS *stands for the San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Schools. It tracks state and federal education policy and changes in law. The 19-member Executive Committee meets regularly and consists of nine school board members, nine district superintendents, and the County Superintendent.*

SBCSS *is the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. The office acts as an intermediate service agency between the California Department of Education and 33 K-12 school districts in the county to help meet the educational needs of all students countywide.*

QUESTIONS FOR PANEL

Dr. Scott Wyatt, Board Member
San Bernardino City Unified School District

THE BROWN ACT

Dick Bray, Former Superintendent
Hesperia Unified School District

BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER

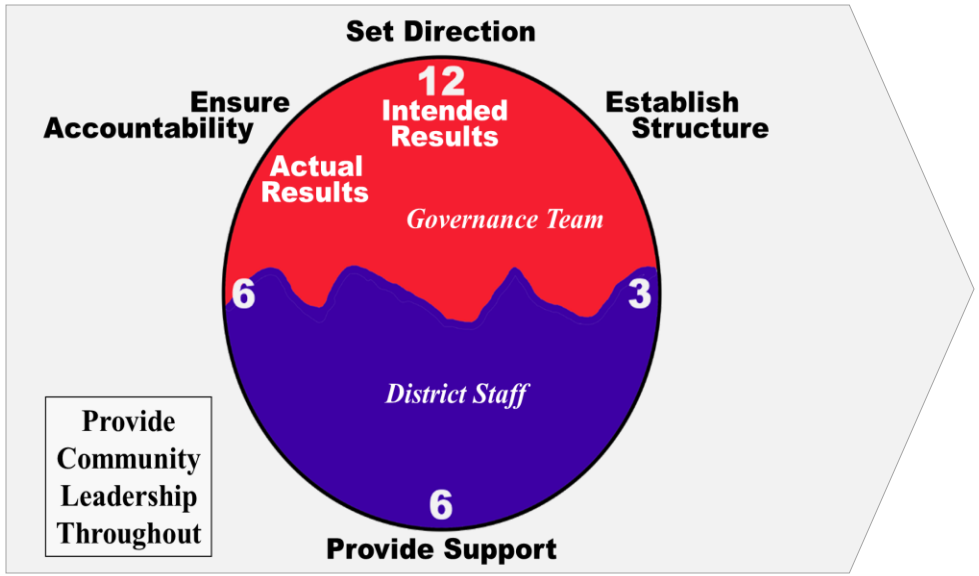
Karen Gray, Board Member
Silver Valley Unified SD

Becoming a Board Member

- Local Boards of Education are entrusted to:
  - Uphold the Constitution
  - Protect the public interest in schools
  - Ensure a high-quality education for each student
- Public oversight of local government is the foundation of democracy
- Our authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with an individual
- The size and complexity of a school district reflects challenges as diverse as those experienced by large multimillion-dollar companies
- Citizens who seek board positions may have strong feelings about what public education should be

Becoming a Board Member

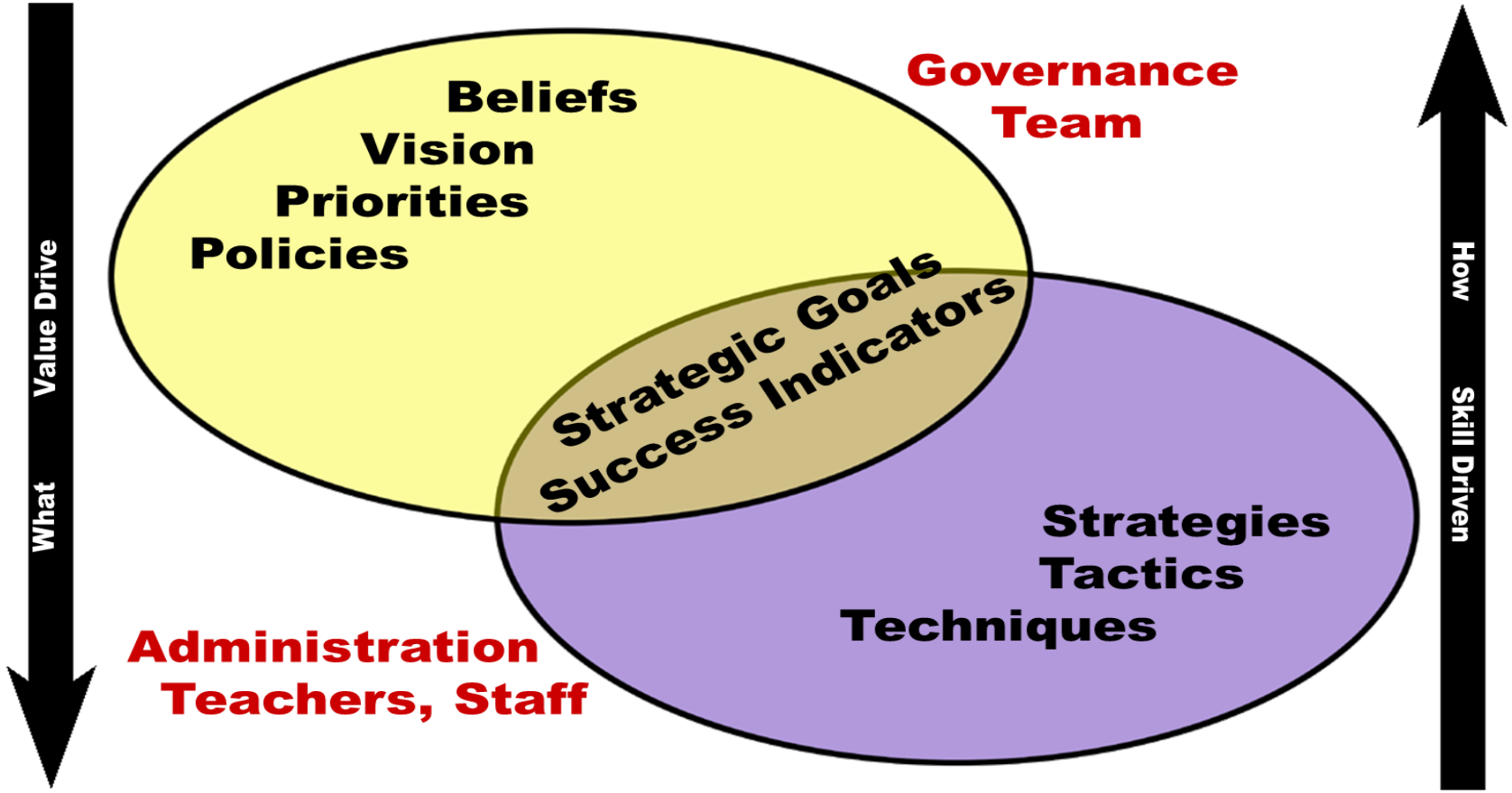
- Many become Board Members to make changes in operational practices without understanding the consequences of such actions
- If I have no individual authority, how do I make an impact???
- Understanding our role: creating a climate of excellence





Becoming a Board Member

- Another view – *how does this support district accountability?*



Becoming a Board Member

- Bringing it all together:
  - Learn, train, network and collaborate to build trust
  - Leverage governance tools (board bylaws, district policies, agenda, protocols, trainings, governance standards)
- *Develop* your governance & communication skills
- Board role is *to set direction for the district, establish policy, ensure accountability and provide community leadership*
- Surviving the conflicts inherent in public leadership rests with being an open person who *has a record* of trustworthiness and integrity
- Politicians run for office – *School Board Members Lead as a team!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Scott Wyatt, Board Member
San Bernardino City Unified School District

SPRING AWARDS APPLICATIONS DUE FEB.10, 2025

Education Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Award

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