Descriptor Term: GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

Descriptor Code: BBBC-1

Rescinds: N/A

Board Approved: 4/10/2006

Previously Approved: New

The Board of Trustees of the Gulfport School District believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interest of every student in the District. The Board will have major commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, employees, the state of Mississippi, laws pertaining to public education, and established policies of the District. In order to maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in district governance, Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

The Board expects its members to work with each other and the Superintendent to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board member will:

1. keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus;
2. value, support and advocate for public education;
3. recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community;
4. act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior;
5. keep confidential matters confidential;
6. participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader;
7. understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff; and,
8. understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals.

Board members also will assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the Board will have unity of purpose and:

1. keep the District focused on learning and achievement for the benefit of all students;
2. communicate a common vision;

3. operate openly with trust and integrity;
4. govern in a dignified and professional manner, relating to everyone with civility and respect;
5. govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures;
6. take collective responsibility for the Board's performance;
7. periodically evaluate its own effectiveness; and,
8. ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations.