



## **GC-2 Governing Commitments**

Policy Type: Governance Culture

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The Board will govern lawfully with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of Board and Superintendent roles, (e) collective rather than individual decisions, (f) the future rather than the past or present, and (g) proactivity rather than reactivity.

- 2.1 The Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Board will be the initiator of governance policy, not merely a reactor to staff initiatives. The Board will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute for the judgment of the Board, although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the Board as a body.
- 2.2 The Board will direct, control and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the overall community's values and perspectives. The Board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the operational organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.
- 2.3 The Board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuance of governance capability. Although the Board may change its policies at any time, it will observe those currently in force.

To ensure that the board's business meetings are conducted with maximum effectiveness and efficiency, members will:

- a. attend and be adequately prepared for all meetings of the Board
- b. generally speak only when recognized
- c. not interrupt each other
- d. not engage in side conversations in person or through electronic means
- e. not repeat what has already been said
- f. not "play to the audience" or monopolize the discussion
- g. support the president's efforts to facilitate an orderly meeting

- h. provide any new data or information to all members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting where it will be discussed
  - i. communicate openly and actively in discussion and dialog to avoid surprises
  - j. value equal participation of all members
  - k. practice respectful body language.
- 2.4 Continual Board development will include orientation of candidates for the Board and new Board members in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of process improvement.
  - 2.5 The Board will allow no officer, individual or committee of the Board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling group obligations.
  - 2.6 Monitoring of **Operational Expectations** policies for organizational compliance and monitoring of the **Results** for reasonable progress will be included on the agenda. As a rule, members will direct any questions or concerns to the Superintendent prior to official public presentation.
  - 2.7 The Board will use a consent agenda as a means to expedite the disposition of routine matters. Administrative matters that are delegated to the Superintendent but are required by law to be approved by the Board will also be acted upon via the consent agenda.
  - 2.8 Any item may be removed from the consent agenda by an individual member.
  - 2.9 Thorough self-monitoring of Board performance will be scheduled and conducted according to the Board's annual calendar. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Culture, Operational Governance, and Board/Superintendent Relationship categories.
  - 2.10 The Board, by majority vote, may revise or amend its policies at any time. In general, a proposed policy revision will be discussed at one session of the Board prior to being approved at a subsequent Board meeting.
  - 2.11 As required by law, the Board Directors shall be members of the Washington State School Directors' Association.

December 14, 2005 – Adoption of Policy Governance  
June 27, 2007 – Update  
March 12, 2008 – Monitored, no changes  
February 28, 2009 – Monitored, no changes  
March 9, 2011 – Monitored, updated  
April 25, 2012 – Monitored, no changes  
January 23, 2013 - Monitored, updated  
August 5, 2013 – Monitored, no changes  
July 31, 2014 – Monitored, no changes  
November 18, 2015 – Monitored, revised  
September 22, 2022 – Monitored, revised  
July 11, 2024 – Converted to Coherent Governance