

Governing Commitments

The Board will govern lawfully with primary emphasis on results for students; encourage full exploration of diverse viewpoints; focus on governance matters rather than administrative issues; observe clear separation of Board and Superintendent roles; make all official decisions by formal vote of the Board; and govern with long-term vision.

1. The Board will give direction as a single unit. The opinions and personal strengths of individual members will be used to the Board's best advantage, but the Board faithfully will make decisions as a group, by formal vote. No officer, individual, or committee of the Board will be permitted to limit the Board's performance or prevent the Board from fulfilling its commitments as defined in these policies.
2. The Board is responsible for its own performance, and commits itself to continuous improvement. The Board will assure that its members are provided with training and professional support necessary to govern effectively. As a means to assure continuous improvement, the Board regularly and systematically will monitor all policies in this section.
3. To ensure that the Board's business meetings are conducted with maximum effectiveness and efficiency, members will:
 - a. Attend meetings in person or, at the discretion of the board president, via an approved virtual platform;
 - b. Come to meetings adequately prepared;
 - c. Speak only when recognized;
 - d. Not interrupt each other;
 - e. Not engage in side conversations;
 - f. Not repeat what has already been said;
 - g. Not "play to the audience" or monopolize the discussion;
 - h. Support the president's efforts to facilitate an orderly meeting;
 - i. Communicate openly and actively in discussion and dialog to avoid surprises;
 - j. Encourage equal participation of all members;
 - k. Practice respectful body language;
4. The Board will use a consent agenda as a means to expedite the disposition of routine matters and dispose of other items of business it chooses not to discuss. All administrative matters delegated to the Superintendent that are required to be approved by the Board will be acted upon by the Board via the consent agenda.
5. An item may be removed from the consent agenda upon approval of a majority of the Board members present and voting.

6. The Board will direct the district through policy. The Board's major focus will be on the results expected to be achieved by students.
7. The Board, by majority vote, may revise or amend its policies at any time. However, as a customary practice, a proposed policy revision coming from the full Board will be discussed at one session of the Board prior to being approved at a subsequent Board meeting, thus taking two readings. An exception to this practice may occur when the proposed policy change comes from the Governance Committee, in which case its study, discussion and drafting at the committee level will constitute a first reading, and the proposed policy may be approved by a majority of the Board with one reading at a subsequent Board meeting.

Adopted: 3/25/2013

Revised: 11/25/2013

1/27/2014

3/14/2016

10/10/2022

09/08/2025

Monitoring Method: ***Board self-assessment***

Monitoring Frequency: ***Annually***

West Fargo Public School