

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER ROLE

By standing for election and accepting appointment to the North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors, Board Members commit to fulfilling the following responsibilities on behalf of the entire community.

1.1 Represent Our Community

- Board Members serve all students, families, staff, and community members across the district.
- Decisions must be made in the best interest of the district as a whole, rather than for individual constituent groups.

1.2 Represent the Board

- Board Members will not speak officially on behalf of the Board, unless authorized by the President.
- Board Members can only refer to decisions of the Board in public. The Board will have in place a variety of strategies to communicate with our entire community.
- Board Members act only as a part of the Board in legal session and have no independent authority.
 - The Board or staff will not be bound in any way by any action taken or statement made by any individual Board member except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific instructions and official action taken by the Board.
- Following a vote, Board Members support the majority decision publicly.
- When requested by the President, Board Members may represent the district at civic or government events.
- Board Members serve as ambassadors of North Thurston Public Schools and should inform the Board and Superintendent of relevant community issues.

1.3 Respect of Office

- Board Members focus on governance, not management, and will not take on administrative roles.
- Board Members are accountable to the Board for individual conduct.
- Personnel or confidential matters are discussed only in executive session and must remain confidential.

1.4 Service and Fulfilling of Duties

Board Members are expected to:

Actively participate in Board meetings to bring forward ideas, perspectives, and expertise to assist the Board in making the best possible decisions.

- Serve on committees and task forces.
- Take on specific assignments aligned with their skill sets.
- Dedicate time each month to Board-related work.
- Regularly attend Board meetings and notify the President and Superintendent in advance if unable to attend.
- Understand that four consecutive unexcused absences may result in a declared vacancy.

1.5 Preparation

Board Members will:

- Develop a thorough understanding of the district's mission, vision (Ends Policies), and operational context.
- Review agendas and materials in advance of meetings.
- Seek clarification on unclear items prior to meetings.
- Avoid requesting information for personal interest only.
- Stay familiar with Board policies and procedures.
- Attend at least one external education or training event annually.

Adopted: 2/13/18

Amended: 11/18/25