

GOVERNANCE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

BG 2.02 GOVERNING STYLE

(1) The Board shall govern with a style that emphasizes outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation; encouragement of diversity in viewpoints; strategic leadership more than administrative detail; clear distinction between the roles of the Board and the Superintendent, collective, rather than individual, decisions; the future rather than the past or the present; and being proactive rather than being reactive.

(2) More specifically, the Board shall:

- (a) operate in all ways mindful of its trustee obligation to the people of the City of Milwaukee. It will not allow any officer, individual, or committee of the Board to hinder or to be an excuse for not fulfilling this commitment;
- (b) enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern MPS with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, policy-making principles, respect of roles, speaking with one voice, and ensuring the continual improvement of Board processes and capabilities. Continual improvement will include orientation of new members in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of process improvement;
- (c) direct, control, and inspire the organization with thoughtful establishment of the broadest organizational policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives. The Board's major focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the operating organization, not on the administrative means of attaining those effects;
- (d) cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Board will be an initiator of policy, not merely a reactor to staff initiatives. The Board will use the expertise of individual board members to enhance the knowledge and ability of the Board as a body, rather than to substitute their individual judgments for the Board's values;
- (e) routinely monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance. Board self-monitoring involves the Board's assessing its performance, action, and activities relative to Board Governance Policies, Board Rules, and Board procedures;
- (f) conduct Board meetings within the following guidelines:
 1. The agenda will be set ahead of time by the Board;
 2. Board resolutions will be submitted by noon of the Wednesday of the week prior to a meeting;
 3. Materials will be sent to the Board ahead of time to enable board members to prepare for meetings.;
 4. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the latest revised edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, unless in conflict with state statutes or Board Rules;
 5. Debate will be limited to ensure effective use of time:
 - a. A timekeeper will be designated;
 - b. The following shall guide debate among board members:
 - 1) Each board member will be given the opportunity to speak once on an item before other board members are permitted to speak a second time; and
 - 2) Clearly stated time limits on speaking will be implemented;
 - c. The following shall guide debate among the public:

- 1) General public testimony will be limited to two minutes per speaker, with an additional 30 seconds to wrap up;
 - 2) No one shall speak a second time on the same issue;
 - 3) Speakers shall be required to sign up before addressing the Board on an issue; and
 - 4) Speakers will be asked to indicate if they are speaking pro or con on the issue or presenting information without taking a position.
- (g) adhere to the “division of labor” principles implicit in the organization of public education that assigns legislative, policy-making, and judicial functions to the Board and delegates administrative responsibilities and the detailed, technical duties of management to its executive officers.

History: Adopted 4-25-96; Revised 10-29-15, 11-18-21
 Legal Ref.: 19.81 et seq., 119.04, 119.10 119.16, 119.18
 Cross Ref. Bd. Gov. Policy 2.03 Board Powers and Duties
 2.04 Board Member Authority
 2.06 Board Meetings: Public Participation
 2.07 Board Meetings: Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
 3.01 Board-Appointed Officials
 3.02 Role of the Superintendent
 3.05 Role of the Director of the Office of Board Governance / Board Clerk
 3.07 Role of the Management of the Office of Accountability and Efficiency
 Admin. Policy 1.03 Parent Empowerment
 2.13 Relations with Other Schools and School Districts
 9.01 Public Information Program
 9.02 Public’s Right to Know
 9.04 Community Involvement in Decision Making
 Monitoring: Internal report by Board as a part of its annual self-assessment.
 Frequency: Annually in July.

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