

GOVERNANCE CULTURE
GC-2: Governing Commitments

Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

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 Chief Superintendent roles; make all official decisions by formal vote of the Board; and govern with long-term vision.

- 2.1 The Board will direct the organization through policy. The Board's major focus will be on the results expected to be achieved by students, rather than on the strategic choices made by the Chief Superintendent to achieve those results.
- 2.2 The Board will function 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.
- 2.3 The Board is responsible for its own performance, and commits itself to continuous improvement. The Board regularly and systematically will monitor all policies in this section and will debrief the quality of each meeting following its conclusion.
- 2.4 The Board will assure that the Board and its members have the knowledge, skills and budget support necessary for effective governance.

Accordingly:

- a. Training and coaching will be used to orient candidates and new members, as well as to maintain and increase current member skills and knowledge;

- b. External, third-party monitoring will be used as necessary to enable the Board to exercise confident control over organizational performance;
 - c. Strategic communication dialogues will be planned and implemented to ensure the whole Board's ability to engage stakeholders in understanding the organization's work as well as sharing viewpoints and values.
- 2.5 To ensure that the Board's business meetings are conducted with maximum effectiveness and efficiency, members will:
- a. come to meetings adequately prepared;
 - b. speak only when recognized, not interrupting each other or engaging in side conversations;
 - c. not repeat unnecessarily what has already been said;
 - d. not play to the audience or camera or monopolize the discussion;
 - e. support the Chair's efforts to facilitate an orderly meeting;
 - f. communicate openly to avoid surprises;
 - g. encourage equal participation of all members, and
 - h. practise respectful body language.
- 2.6 The Board will use the Board's 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 Chief Superintendent that are required by law to be approved by the Board will be acted upon by the Board via the Chief Superintendent's consent agenda.
- 2.7 The Board, by majority vote, may revise or amend its policies at any time. However, as a customary practice, a proposed policy revision will be discussed at one session of the Board prior to being acted upon at a subsequent Board meeting.

Adopted: January 24, 2012