

GOVERNANCE CULTURE**GC-2: Governing Commitments****Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment****Monitoring Frequency: Annual**

The Board will govern lawfully with primary emphasis on *Results* for students; encourage full exploration of diverse viewpoints; focus on governance matters rather than operations in keeping with Board Policies (as defined in GC-3: Board Job Description); 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 will faithfully make decisions as a group, by formal vote. No officer, individual trustee, 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.
- 2.4 The Board will ensure 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 based on the skills identified in the trustee skills matrix;
- b. external, third-party monitoring will be used as necessary to enable the Board to exercise confident oversight of the organization's performance;
- c. the Board regularly and systematically will monitor all Board policies and will debrief the quality of each meeting; and

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- d. 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 comply with Board Policies (as defined in GC-3: Board Job Description) and:
- a. come to meetings properly prepared for Board discussions and deliberations;
 - 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. practice respectful body language.
- 2.6 Positive working relationships are essential for personal well-being, a healthy working environment, high morale and quality learning. To ensure the Board functions as a team, members will:
- a. recognize and respect each other's dignity;
 - b. work to earn and sustain trust;
 - c. communicate with each other in ways that promote mutual understanding;
 - d. use collaborative approaches to problem-solving and decision-making; and
 - e. give each other the benefit of the doubt;
- 2.7 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.

2.8 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, at least, prior to being acted upon at a subsequent Board meeting.

Adopted: April 18, 2023

Policy Exhibits:
GC-2E: Trustee Remuneration

