

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

The Governing Board believes that its primary responsibility while serving on the MetroED Governing Board is first and foremost to represent the best interests of the Metropolitan Education District as a whole. The Board must represent the best interests of parents/guardians, all members of the community, employees, JPA member districts, the state of California, laws pertaining to public education, and established policies of MetroED. To maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in district governance, Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

Board members make decisions and cast votes for the entire student population and not (just) for the students in their own districts. Board members do not have to seek the approval of his/her respective participating school district before voting on an issue. Actions of the MetroED Governing Board do not need to be ratified by participating districts. The JPA Governing Board is not delegated the authority to change the JPA Agreement between the participating parties. Any change or amendments to the JPA Agreement must be approved by individual districts' Governing Boards.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The Board expects its members to work with each other and the Superintendent to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
2. Value, support and advocate for public education

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community
4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior
5. Keep confidential matters confidential

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS (continued)

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

8. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

Board members also shall assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the Board shall have a unity of purpose and:

1. Keep MetroED focused on learning and achievement for all students
2. Communicate a common vision

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for MetroED)

3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity
4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance
7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

9. Be prepared to act in the best interest of every student in the Metropolitan Education District and, as a Board member, does not represent any factional segment of the community but is rather a part of the body which represents and acts for the community as a whole.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 *Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance*

35160 *Board authority to act in any manner not conflicting with law*

35164 *Actions by majority vote*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090 *Financial interest in contract*

1098 *Disclosure of confidential information*

1125-1129 *Incompatible activities*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act*

87300-87313 *Conflict of interest code*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

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