



Responsible Office: Office of the Board of Trustees & Superintendent

BOARD POLICY 9055

OFFICERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PURPOSE

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees ("Board") to represent the citizens and taxpayers of the community in the Washoe County School District's ("District") mission to create an education system where all students achieve academic success, develop personal and civic responsibility, and achieve career and college readiness for the 21st century. This policy will define the duties of the members of the Board of Trustees.

POLICY

1. Duties of The President. The President assures the integrity of the Board's process and when called upon represents the Board to outside parties. Accordingly, the President shall have the following roles and duties:
 - a. To ensure that the Board behaves consistently with its own rules and those legitimately imposed upon it from outside the organization, by enforcing that:
 - i. Meeting discussion content shall be on those issues which, according to Board policy, clearly belong to the Board to decide or to monitor.
 - ii. Information, except for monitoring performance and Board decisions, shall be avoided or minimized and always noted as information.
 - iii. Deliberation shall be respectful, open, thorough, timely, orderly, and specific to the issue. Deliberations shall support the Balanced Governance Model Individual Board Member Characteristics.
 - b. The President is authorized to act within the following powers and limitations:
 - i. The President is empowered to chair Board meetings with all the commonly accepted responsibility of that position (e.g., ruling, recognizing speakers, and following parliamentary procedures).
 - ii. The President has no authority to individually make decisions about

policies created by the Board, or operations dictated by federal or state statute or contractual agreement. The President has no authority to supervise or direct the Superintendent.

- iii. The President is responsible for approving the annual activities calendar and an annual schedule for board topics. The President must present the calendar and topics schedule for Board approval by May of each year.
 - iv. The President may represent the Board to outside parties in announcing Board-stated positions and in stating chair decisions and interpretations within the area delegated to her/him.
 - v. The President may delegate this authority but remains accountable for its use.
 - vi. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Trustees whenever there is sufficient business to come before the Board or upon the written request of three members of the Board, or with the concurrence of three members of the Board at a regular meeting and in accordance with Nevada state law.
 - vii. To expedite the work of the Board, the President has the responsibility to appoint Board members to Board committees, community committees, and outside agencies as specified by Nevada Revised Statutes. The exception to this is when the NRS requires Board approval for appointments.
 - viii. The President may sign all papers and documents as required by law or as authorized by action of the Board of Trustees.
 - ix. In the absence of the Clerk and the Vice President, the President may appoint another Board member to assume the Clerk's duties.
 - x. The President acts as coordinator for the evaluation of the Superintendent, interaction between outside counsel, and interaction between the internal auditor to the Board of Trustees.
- c. To ensure the delivery of a Board-approved annual progress report to the public by the Superintendent to include the following items:
- i. Student performance growth data, disaggregated by ethnicity and tracked by student cohort, indicating student progress toward accomplishing District Values, Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals, and Balanced Governance Model Standards.

- ii. Information about school district strategies, programs.
 - iii. Operations intended to accomplish the District Values, Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals, and Balanced Governance Model Standards.
 - iv. Revenues, expenditures, and costs of major programs and elements of district operation.
 - d. To ensure that concerns regarding school board member/superintendent communication or implementation of policy and procedures shall be addressed with the Superintendent through the Balanced Governance Model Progressive Response process. (see Board Policy 9051, Board Conduct, Ethics and Operational Protocols)
 - e. To ensure that Board members who fail to follow governance process policies, either during or outside of a Board meeting shall be addressed using the Balanced Governance Model Progressive Evaluation process (see Board Policy 9051, Board Conduct, Ethics and Operational Protocols)
 - f. To ensure Board members receive on-going training in effective governance, at least annually, as described in Board Policy 9062, Orientation and Continuous Education of the Board of Trustees. All training sessions shall be provided by appropriate personnel trained in the Balanced Governance Model.
 - g. Board members shall participate in on-going, annual self-assessment, summative assessment, and external evaluation in effective governance. Board evaluation should measure Board performance on Balanced Governance Model Standards, Individual Board Member Characteristics, and Effective Board Meeting elements. All external evaluation shall be provided by personnel trained and licensed in the Balanced Governance Model.
2. Duties of The Vice President
- a. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties and have the obligations of the President.
 - b. In the absence of the Clerk, the Vice President shall serve in the capacity and assume the duties of the Clerk, including signatory authority, unless otherwise provided by law.
 - c. Should the office of the President become vacant, the Vice President shall fill the vacancy until the election of a new President.
3. Duties of The Clerk
- a. The Clerk shall review the minutes of all meetings and transactions of the

Board of Trustees. Final approval of the minutes shall rest with the Board of Trustees.

- b. The Clerk shall have the authority sign all necessary documents related to the functions of the Washoe County School District and those required by law under Nevada Revised Statutes. The Clerk shall also have a duty to sign all such documents.
 - c. The duties of the Clerk, with the exception of signatory powers, may be assigned to a qualified employee of the Washoe County School District. In the absence of the Clerk, and when necessary to do so (i.e. deadline), the duties of the Clerk may be reassigned by the President of the Board.
4. Duties of Individual Board Members
- a. The major responsibilities of members of the Board of Trustees include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Implement the dictates of the Board of Trustees' Governing Mission, as defined by Board Policy 9050, Board of Trustees' Governing Mission.
 - ii. Develop, monitor, and serve as a steward of the District's Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, Theory of Action and resources;
 - iii. Hire and evaluate the Superintendent;
 - iv. Adopt and monitor the District's annual budget and capital improvement programs;
 - v. Responsible for governance requirements as established through state and federal legislation;
 - vi. Monitor the educational and operational performance of the District; and
 - vii. Respond to constituent and community concerns.
 - viii. Retain responsibility for community engagement dialogue relevant to District stakeholders including, but not limited to, reporting progress on the District Values, Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Balanced Governance Model Standards, and local bond programs.
 - b. Expectations of members of the Board of Trustees include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Attend and participate in discussions and issues at scheduled board

meetings, committee meetings and other related meetings;

- ii. Participate in the work of the Board, including staying informed, preparing for meetings, reviewing and providing input on minutes and reports;
- iii. Serve as a member or liaison on various statutory, ad hoc or standing Board committees as well as on other agency boards and committees.

- 1. If a member cannot fulfill the obligations of an appointment, the expectation is that the member will advise the Board so that alternate arrangements can be made.

- iv. Participate in continuing education, conferences and other training activities which contribute to the professional development as a board member and the Board of Trustees.
- v. Follow protocol as established in the Board Policy and other governing documents of the District, including recognition that only the Board of Trustees has the authority to act.
- vi. Disclose any conflict of interest on any action item pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 281A, Ethics in Government.

5. Duties of the whole Board Team

- a. Exercise informed oversight for the achievement of the District Values, Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals, Balanced Governance Model Standards, effective programs, processes, and operations; and improved learning for all students.
- b. Develop written governing policies that address:
 - i. Educational Outcomes: Educational outcomes with specific and measureable formative data, linked to the District Values, Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals, and Balanced Governance Model Board Standards;
 - ii. Program/Process Alignment: Describe the processes, timeline, and means of reporting (a) specific and targeted educational problems and challenges of the District, (b) how program components address or fail to address those educational problems and challenges, and (c) changes to programs or program components;
 - iii. Balanced Governance Model Process: Specification of how the Board conceives, carries out, and monitors its own tasks and;

- iv. Board/Superintendent Roles: How responsibility is delegated to the Superintendent and monitored by the Board, and written protocols of operation for monitoring and corrections of policy and processes.
- c. Approve all Board policies. Unless otherwise authorized, any waivers of provisions in Board policies must be approved by the Board.
- d. Ensure successful Superintendent performance by monitoring performance based on achievement of the District Values, Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals, and Balanced Governance Model Standards.
- e. Engage in policy development activities limited to (a) request to the Superintendent to initiate the development of a new policy or revise a current policy, (b) acting as a whole Board to review, request revision of, provide direction for policy revision, and approve policy.
- f. The Board serves to initiate and request new policy and policy revision, and is the sole policy approving body. The Superintendent is also authorized to recommend policy or policy revision. In accordance with its Board Balanced Governance Model, the Board shall adopt general policies that provide authorization and guidelines for the Board and Superintendent to take action. The implementation of such policies is an administrative function of the Superintendent.
 - i. The Board shall endeavor to review its policies on a bi-annual schedule to ensure policy intent is clear and results are achievable by the organization.
 - ii. All Board policies shall be approved in accordance with the public notice and input processes set forth in Nevada state law.
 - iii. Any Board member or the Superintendent may ask for policies to be revised or developed as directed by the protocols in Board Policy 9115, Meeting of the Board of Trustees, and Board Policy 9110, Meeting Protocols. Policies will be developed upon approval of the whole Board. Generally, the Board shall request and direct the development of new policy wording and revision to the Superintendent or appropriate designee.
 - iv. All new or revised policy remain as drafts until reviewed and approved by the whole Board.
 - v. In accordance with its governance model, the Board delegates to the Superintendent the function of creating, adopting, and implementing administrative regulations and procedures designed to interpret and carry out Board policies. The administrative regulations and

procedures will specify required actions and detail the arrangements under which the District will operate. These regulations and procedures must be consistent with the policies adopted by the Board.

- vi. Following the presentation of a formative assessment report (See Board Policy 9081, Formative Monitoring Superintendent and Strategic Goals), an item may be placed on the agenda for a review of the appropriate policy at the next regular Board meeting. The review will include only the Board's policy and not the Superintendent's Interpretation or Supporting Data / Information. Each Board member will assess the policy for clarity and the ability of the organization to meet the goals and/or direction provided by the Board.

6. Legislative Representative

- a. A member of the Board of Trustees shall serve as legislative representative and shall be the Board's liaison with the Nevada Association of School Boards. The legislative representative may attend legislative sessions and subcommittee meetings, conveying school district views and concerns and participating in the formulation of legislative proposals. The legislative representative shall, with the assistance of the District's Government Affairs Director, monitor proposed legislation that may be impactful to the District and report back to the Board of Trustees.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. By defining its duties, the Board of Trustees will effectively satisfy its role as the elected governing body of the District.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and complies with the governing documents of the District.
2. This policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. Chapter 386, Local Administrative Organization, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 386.310, Officers; organization
 - ii. NRS 386.325, Duties of the clerk
 - iii. NRS 386.330, Meetings; quorum; broadcast of meeting on television authorized

REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. This policy shall be reviewed annually as part of the orientation and continuous education process of the Board of Trustees.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
4/8/2008	1.0	Adopted
10/29/2013	2.0	Revised: converted to new format, merged with Board of Trustees Governing Procedure BOT-GP001, Job Descriptions and Expectations
10/25/2016	3.0	Revised: to align with Balanced Governance, number changed from 9006