

Fairview SD 72
Board Agreements
Revised September 16, 2014

Election of board officers at reorganization meeting

- Board members who would like to be considered for President, Vice President, or Secretary, will express their interest prior to the reorganizational meeting.

Alignment of policy and board action

- In keeping with the philosophy of governance by policy, board members will be aware of the alignment of the appropriate policy with board action.

Agenda development (two opportunities for input to the agenda)

1. At the end of every board meeting there will be an agenda item asking for items for consideration for future board meeting agendas.
 - The board president will ascertain that there is at least two board members who agree to have the suggested item placed on a future board meeting agenda.
2. Board members who wish to have an item placed on an upcoming board meeting agenda will contact the superintendent and/or the board president prior to the meeting.

Concerns from the community and staff (“Customer” concerns)

- Board members will listen carefully, remembering they are only hearing one side of the story.
- Board members will then direct that person to the person in the district most appropriate (Chain of Command) who is able to help them resolve their concern.
- Board members handling concerns in this manner will clarify that one board member has no individual authority to fix a problem.
- Board members will call the superintendent if they think this is an issue of concern.

No Surprises

- No one (superintendent or board members) gets surprised at any time – in the meeting or between meetings.
- The truth of no surprises is respect for all participants and the process.

Speaking with one voice

- No individual board member other than the board president, per board policy, has the authority to act or speak on behalf of the board without the consent of the board.
- Board members have an obligation to express their opinions and respect others’ opinions.
- Board members understand the importance of speaking with one clear voice to both the superintendent and the community.
- Board members have the right to disagree with the decision of the board, but will support the board in its decision by abiding by the will of the majority.

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Asking questions about items on upcoming meeting agendas

- Whenever possible, board members will contact the superintendent or business manager with any questions on the agenda prior to the board meeting.
- Board members understand that although they are asking the question(s) prior to the meeting, they have a right to ask the question(s) at the meeting as well.

Use of electronic communication

- Board members will be judicious in their use of electronic communications and understand that most electronic communications are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and as such can be made public.
- In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, board members will not “reply to all” to any district email or text messages.
- Board members will not use electronic communications to contact other board members with their position/thought/opinions.

Polling before a meeting

- Board members will not poll other board members by email or phone call to ascertain their opinions.

Contact with staff

- Board members may contact principals when appropriate.

Visiting school

- Board members who wish to visit the school in their role as board members will call the superintendent prior to their visit.

Communicating with the media

- The board president is the spokesperson for the board, per board policy.
- The superintendent is the spokesperson for the district.

Board calendar

- The board will participate in a “Starting Right” board self-evaluation in election years and a Board Governance Review self-evaluation in non-election years.

Committees

- The purpose of committees is to hear the recommendation from the superintendent and help shape (through questions and discussion) the recommendation before it goes to the full board.