

**TITLE: BOARD EFFECTIVENESS**

Philosophy. The Board acknowledges the importance of the establishment of direct links between it and local school improvement councils, faculty senates, and the community at large. In order to be effective the Board must receive meaningful information, comments and suggestions regarding its policies and governance.

Direct Links Between the Board and Local School Improvement Councils. To enable the Board to receive information, comments, and suggestions directly from local school improvement councils regarding broad guidelines for oversight procedures, standards of accountability, and planning for future needs, the following direct links are established between the Board and its local school improvement councils.

Annual Meeting with Local School Improvement Councils. The Board shall conduct meetings with all local school improvement councils at dates, times, and places fixed at its first meeting in July of each year. At least a quorum of the full membership of each local improvement council shall be required to attend such meetings.

Annual Meeting Agenda. At least 30 days before a local school improvement council's annual meeting with the Board, the Board shall develop and submit to the local school improvement council an agenda for the meeting. The agenda shall identify the items which the council chairperson or designee is to address at the meeting. The items shall include, but need not be limited to, items designated by the Board from the report submitted to the terms of this policy, as well as one or more of the following issues: school performance, curriculum, status of the school in meeting the unified school improvement plan, and status of the school in meeting the county plan.

Requests for Information. Throughout the year, the Board may make written requests for information from local school improvement councils or hold community forums to receive input from the affected community as the Board considers necessary.

Additional Meetings. In its discretion, the Board may hold additional meetings with any local school improvement council. In particular, the Board may schedule additional meetings with the local school improvement council for any low performing school.

Annual Report. At the conclusion of each school year, the Superintendent shall prepare, for adoption by the Board, a report concerning the meeting or meetings held with the local school improvement councils during the school year. In drafting the report, the Superintendent shall consult with the councils and may request their assistance. Upon approval by the Board, and no later than September 1 of each year, the report, including any amendments made by the Board, shall be delivered by the Superintendent to the West Virginia Board of Education.

Direct Links Between the Board and Faculty Senates. To enable the Board to receive information, comments, and suggestions directly from faculty senates regarding broad guidelines for oversight procedures, standards of accountability, and planning for future needs, the following direct links are established between the Board and its faculty senates.

- Surveys of Faculty Senates. Surveys are a formal means to obtain information or to evaluate board programs or proposed board programs, or to survey or study issues.
- Delegations at Board Meetings. Faculty Senate representatives may elect to speak as delegations at any regular board meeting or any special board meeting at which the topic of the delegate's presentation is on the board's agenda for discussion at that meeting.
- Forums Involving Faculty Senates. The Board may convene forums of faculty senates in regard to an issue, or to receive comments or information. Meeting structure is more formal in forums than in town meetings.
- Forum Participation. In planning forums, as described herein, the Board may consider inviting representatives of faculty senates as part of the constituency groups participating in the forum.

Record of Suggestions. A record shall be kept by the Superintendent of all suggestions made at meetings between the Board and Local School Improvement Councils and Faculty Senates regarding board guidelines for oversight procedures, standards of accountability, and planning for future needs. The record shall be considered, at least annually, by the Board to identify suggestions worthy of further consideration.

Direct Links Between the Board and the Community at Large. The following steps may be taken to develop direct links between the Board and the community at large, allow for community involvement at regular board meetings, and regularly communicate with the public regarding important issues.

- Surveys of the Community at Large. Surveys are a formal means to obtain information or to evaluate board programs or proposed board programs, or to survey or study issues. Surveys need not be made of the entire community, but can be made of designated subgroups of the community at large.
- Board Meetings Involving the Community at Large. A portion or portions of regular meetings (or special meetings) may be devoted to hearing from the community at large or sub-groups of the community. For purposes of effective meeting management, the board should itemize what it expects from the community at large or sub-groups.
- Forums Involving the Community at Large. The board may convene forums, involving the community at large, in regard to an issue, or to receive comments or information.

- Linkages with the Community at Large Based on Designation. The Board may appoint a member of the board (or members of the board) and/or superintendent to provide or receive certain communications from the community at large or sub-groups of the community. This is not intended to prevent to public from communicating with other board members on matters of concern.

Personnel Policy Review. The Superintendent shall periodically provide a report to the Board that identifies all personnel policies. The report shall identify any policy deficiencies that result in a lack of effectiveness.

Broad Guidelines for the School District. The Board recognizes its responsibility to provide broad guidelines for the school district, including the establishment of specific oversight procedures, development and implementation of standards of accountability, and development of long-range plans to meet future needs.

Long-Range Plans. The Board shall schedule at least one special meeting on an annual basis that is dedicated to long range planning. Such long range planning shall include plans to meet future needs relative to school board effectiveness.

Use of Data in Decision Making. The Superintendent shall provide reports that include school-based accreditation and performance data and other relevant data to the Board on a timely basis. Whenever the Board is engaged in decision making that involves meeting the education goals of the State and such other goals as the Board may establish, the Superintendent shall reference the aforesaid data in any recommendations made to the Board.

Review Schedule. On or before August of each year the Board shall review this policy and may make modifications deemed necessary.

**Legal Authority: West Virginia Code §18-5-14**

**Board Adoption: July 21, 2014**