

## **Section 1000 – Board Bylaws**

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### Duties

The Board's work for the benefit of students and the community will include:

- a. Establishing and maintaining connections with the public regarding issues impacting public education;
- b. Reviewing and recommending education policy on an ongoing basis;
- c. Hiring and evaluating the Superintendent, including holding the Superintendent accountable to the terms of the contract and annually set goals;
- d. Enacting Board governance policies that include Superintendent parameters/responsibilities, Board/Superintendent/Staff Relations, and the Board's own means to support its governance role;
- e. Making decisions based on clear data and significant and relevant monitoring information pertinent to District operations;
- f. Approving a District budget with revenue and spending parameters and a financial performance monitoring process;
- g. Reviewing and accepting administrative rules as they support the policies established by the Board; and
- h. Establishing a process to appoint an interim Superintendent to ensure that District business is conducted during an extended planned or unplanned absence of the Superintendent.

### Board Member Duties and Responsibilities

Individual Board members shall:

- Keep the Superintendent and fellow Board members advised of community reaction to the school program and to school policies;
- Listen to citizens with questions, comments, and complaints, referring them to an appropriate member of the school staff in accordance with the policies of the Board;
- Refer personal requests and criticisms by employees directly to the appropriate administrative office and/or union official in accordance with the policies of the Board;

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- Act on the selection, assignment, transfer, promotion, demotion, or dismissal of school personnel, both certified and non-certified, only after submission of a recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools;
- Participate in county, regional, state, and national associations of school board members;
- Hold the Superintendent responsible for acceptable standards and results in the operation of the school system;
- Be responsible for their own behavior and consequences;
- Not undermine the leadership of the President and take only those actions which are congruent with policy;
- Observe Parliamentary procedure, deferring to the President when clarity of procedure is needed;
- Respect the authority of the President;
- Not bypass the authority and/or role of the President;
- Communicate directly with the President regarding performance issues; and
- Inform the President or Superintendent of additional agenda items prior to the Board meeting.

### Governing Philosophies

In governing on behalf of a quality education for all students within the Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Board of Education's decisions and policy-making will be founded on the principles listed below:

- a. Fostering and modeling an atmosphere of respect for human dignity and the talents and contributions of all persons;
- b. Providing a system of accountability for delivering quality education that can be measured;
- c. Putting students' needs first by making decisions with a sense of honesty, sincerity, fairness, and integrity;
- d. Striving to meet the needs of all children through decision-making based on an equitable distribution of resources;
- e. Listening to hear the words and intentions of all who speak;

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- f. Putting what we learn and do into a system perspective; and
- g. Compromising and collaborating to achieve the goal of a quality education for all students of the GRPS.

The Board may exercise the above legal powers and duties only when convened in a legally constituted meeting.

Approved: June 29, 2009

Revised: May 15, 2017

LEGAL REF: Michigan Constitution, Article VIII; MCL 380.10, 380.11 *et seq.*