

Policy Type: Governance Process

Board Committee Principles

Board committees, when used, will be used to support the work of the Board and to reinforce the wholeness of the Board’s job and never to interfere with delegation of authority from the Board to the Superintendent.

Accordingly:

1. Board committees are to assist the Board to do its job, not to direct or advise the staff. Committees ordinarily will assist the Board by preparing policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. In keeping with the Board’s broader focus, Board committees will not have direct dealings with current staff operations unless specifically given that authority by the Board.
2. Board committees may not speak or act for the Board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes. Expectations and authority will be carefully stated by the Board to assure that committee authority will not conflict with authority delegated to the Superintendent.
3. Board committees cannot exercise authority over the Superintendent or staff. Because the Superintendent works for the full Board, any direction to the Superintendent related to a committee recommendation must come from the full Board.
4. Board committees are expected to avoid over-identification with organizational parts rather than the whole. Therefore, a Board committee which has helped the Board create policy will not be used to monitor organizational performance on that same subject.
5. This policy applies only to committees which are formed by Board action, whether or not the committees include Board members. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the Superintendent.
6. All Board committee meetings are subject to the open meetings law.