

**MANSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD POLICY**

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS # 2a

POLICY TITLE: GOVERNING STYLE

The Board will govern lawfully with an emphasis on:

- a. Outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation;
- b. Encouragement of diversity in viewpoints;
- c. **Whole community representation;**
- d. Strategic leadership more than administrative detail;
- e. Clear distinction of Board and Superintendent;
- f. Collective rather than individual decisions;
- g. Future rather than past or present; and
- h. Pro-activity rather than reactivity.

Accordingly:

1. The Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Board will be the initiator of policy, not merely a reactor to staff initiatives. **This self-discipline will apply to:**
 - a. **Attendance, preparation for meetings – including but not limited to analyzing available data, considering a range of alternatives and recognizing impact on each and every student.**
 - b. **Adherence to policymaking principals, respect for assigned roles, and continuity of governance capability.**
2. **The board will hold itself accountable for governing with excellence. This is done with self-discipline. In the event a member has violated a Governance Policy provision, a board representative will discuss the matter with the offending member. Further violations may result in, but are not limited to removal from committees, censure or legal action. If an executive session is deemed necessary, that information remains confidential. The board may authorize public action by a quorum.**
3. The Board will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute for the judgment of the Board, although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the Board as a body
4. The Board will direct, control and inspire the district through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives. The Board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the staff organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects; Individual members will not;
 - a. **Assume responsibility for resolving operational problems or complaints.**
 - b. **Give personal direction to any part of the operational organization.**
5. ~~The Board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuance of~~

- ~~governance capability~~. Although the Board can change its governance process policies at any time, it will observe those currently in force scrupulously;
6. Continual Board development will include orientation of new Board members in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of process improvement;
 7. ~~The Board will allow no officer, individual or committee of the Board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling group obligations; and~~ **The Board will cultivate shared responsibility and make all decisions consistent with the Board's Ends and policy governance.**
 - a. **The Board's authority to act is only by quorum in an official meeting of the Board.**
 - b. **Once a decision is reached, each Board member will respect that decision.**
 8. The Board will monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance at each meeting. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Superintendent Linkage categories.