

School District 45, DuPage County  
Board Agreements  
October 15, 2024

### **Unity of Purpose**

We affirm the unique role of public education, whereby each community collectively pools its resources for the common good through the education of its students. Therefore, we seek to uphold and improve public education for our community.

- We want to build trust and move the district forward.
- We want to become an effective team.
- We want to understand our individual jobs and collective responsibilities.
- We want to be a team with a common, focused direction.
- We want to create a district culture that supports positive change.
- We want to perpetuate a positive district culture that survives in the face of board members and staff turnover.
- We have a common belief that everyone has good intentions.
- We create a safe environment for the productive exchange of ideas.
- We listen and seek to understand the viewpoints of others.
- We solve problems through a collaborative process where all participants support the decision and actively work toward its implementation.

*Please refer to the IASB Policy Reference Manual:*

*2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board*

*2:80-E Board member Code of Conduct*

### **Engaging the Community**

Because the board sits in trust for the whole community, the board will make continuing efforts to hear and engage the whole community. We will seek venues beyond the board meeting where we can effectively engage community members and listen to their concerns.

*2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board*

*8:10 Connection with the Community*

### **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 direct community and staff concerns to the “Resolving School Concerns” or “Resolving Staff Concerns” document on the D45 website.
- Board members handling concerns in this manner will clarify that one board member has no individual authority to fix a problem.
- Board members will contact the superintendent if they think this is an issue of concern.

### **Asking questions about upcoming meetings**

- Whenever possible, board members will contact the superintendent 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.
- When an individual board member requests information, it will be provided to all board members. An individual board member will - insofar as possible - work to let the superintendent know ahead of time when a request for information will be made in public so the staff can be prepared to provide a thorough answer.
- All board member requests for information will be filtered through the superintendent.

### **Visiting campuses**

- Board members who plan on visiting a school in their role as a board member, will contact the building principal prior to the visit.

### **Speaking with one voice**

- 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.
- The only authority to direct action rests with a quorum of the board sitting at the board table during a duly called open meeting. A majority vote sets such direction.
- The superintendent is accountable only to the full board of education.
- 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.
- No individual board member, other than the board president, has the authority to act or speak on behalf of the board without the consent of the board.

### **Agenda development**

- Board members who wish to have an item placed on the agenda will contact the board president.
- Prior to the meeting, the board president and superintendent will confer on the agenda.
- The board president is responsible for focusing board agendas on appropriate content(board work). Board members and district residents may suggest items for inclusion on the agenda. Such items may be added to the agenda upon approval of the board.

### **Use of email**

- Board members will be judicious in their use of email and understand that most emails 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 all" to any district email.
- Board members will not email other board members stating their thoughts or opinions so as to create an email chain of conversation.

### **Closed session meetings**

- Board members respect the confidentiality of privileged information and will not divulge conversations, discussions, or deliberations that take place during a closed session meeting.
- Board members understand that to divulge closed session information not only damages the relationship of the team, but has the potential for far reaching consequences which may impact future district operations.

### **Board member roles and responsibilities**

- Board members will discipline themselves to work on “Ends” while allowing the superintendent and staff to work on “Means”.
- Board members will stay on the “balcony” when making decisions and will be on the “dance floor” only as parents or community members and not as board members.
- Board members will hold themselves and each other accountable for maintaining the separation of board role and parent role.
- Board members communicating with staff in their role as parents will remember the neon sign that reads “BOARD MEMBER” and will not overstep their parent role.

### **New Board Member Orientation**

- The board desires to be a team where all members contribute to effective board leadership. The board takes initiative in helping new members learn, understand and practice effective governance. The board president shall arrange a meeting of the whole board to review board processes and procedures. The superintendent shall meet with new board members to answer questions and acquaint the member with the district. If desired by the new board member, a veteran member will be identified as a mentor.