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# LEWISVILLE ISD

## BOARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



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# Board Member Ethics

As a member of the Board, I shall promote the best interests of the District as a whole and, to that end, shall adhere to the following ethical standards:

## STUDENT- CENTERED FOCUS

- I will be continuously guided by what is best for all students of the District.

## EQUITY IN ATTITUDE

- I will be fair, just, and impartial in all my decisions and actions.
- I will accord others the respect I wish for myself.
- I will encourage expressions of different opinions and listen with an open mind to others' ideas.

## TRUSTWORTHINESS IN STEWARDSHIP

- I will be accountable to the public by representing District policies, programs, priorities, and progress accurately.
- I will be responsive to the community by seeking its involvement in District affairs and by communicating its priorities and concerns.
- I will work to ensure prudent and accountable use of District resources.
- I will make no personal promise or take private action that may compromise my performance or my responsibilities.

## HONOR IN CONDUCT

- I will tell the truth.
- I will share my views while working for consensus.
- I will respect the majority decision as the decision of the Board.
- I will base my decisions on fact rather than supposition, opinion, or public favor.

## INTEGRITY OF CHARACTER

- I will refuse to surrender judgment to any individual or group at the expense of the District as a whole.
- I will consistently uphold all applicable laws, rules, policies, and governance procedures.
- I will not disclose information that is confidential by law.

## COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

- I will focus my attention on fulfilling the Board's responsibilities of goal setting, policymaking, and evaluation.
- I will diligently prepare for and attend Board meetings.
- I will avoid personal involvement in activities the Board has delegated to the Superintendent.
- I will seek continuing education that will enhance my ability to fulfill my duties effectively.

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The Board defines the district's policies and goals that shall reflect the district's advocacy for all students. Board members serve as advocates for all students by providing leadership at the local, state, and national level. The policies set by the Board will ensure the district's mission and goals are achieved. A responsibility of the Board is to hire a Superintendent, who then implements the policies and goals adopted by the Board. The Board shall evaluate the Superintendent's job performance based upon these policies and goals on an annual basis.

A district is only as strong as the Superintendent/Board relationship, also referred to as the "Team of Eight." The Superintendent is the CEO of the organization and the Board is a governing body, much like a Board of Directors is a business setting. The Board must give the Superintendent leeway to accomplish the directives provided by the Board without getting involved in the day-to-day operations of the district and campuses.

An effective Board member communicates with the Superintendent about a concern. It is the Superintendent's job to address concerns. Board members should not violate the chain of command. Doing so causes disrespect and unclear expectations between staff, the Superintendent, and the Board.

## Reauthorization of Board Operating Procedures

These operating procedures will be reviewed annually by the Board, no later than August 31, and shall reflect a continuous improvement model.

## Board Protocol

### New Board Member Orientation

1. The Board president shall assign an existing Board Member to serve as a mentor.
2. New Board Member will have a meeting with staff for their name badge and other generic, logistical information before their first board meeting.
3. District orientation for a new Board Member will be held at the earliest convenience of the Board Member taking the Oath of Office.
4. At a minimum, the Superintendent and Board President will participate in the orientation. Additional administrative staff may also be included to provide specific information about the district.
5. Each new Board Member will receive a copy of the "New Board Member Checklist." The checklist provides a summary of the orientation activities and the time frame for those activities to occur. See Exhibit A at the end of this document.
6. The orientation should include, but will not be limited to the following:
  - a. Board Operating Procedures and Board Policies.
  - b. Superintendent's overview of district administrative organization
  - c. Training to access district electronic communications.
  - d. District budget overview.
  - e. District goals overview.
  - f. Expense reimbursement procedures
  - g. Board annual calendar and briefing of upcoming events.

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- h. Framework for School Board Development from SBOE
  - i. Dashboard Training
  - j. Student Performance Overview
  - k. Board Members Ethics BFF (Local)
  - l. Ethics Conflict of Interest Disclosure BBFA (Legal)
  - m. Ethics Prohibited Practices BBFB (Legal)
  - n. Superintendent Goals
7. New Board Members should feel free to ask questions of the Superintendent, Board President, and other Board Members.
  8. New Board Members will be offered a six-month refresher of any of the above orientation material.

Related Policies: BBD(LEGAL), BBD(EXHIBIT), BBF(LOCAL), BBFA(LEGAL), BBFB(LEGAL)

## Board Member Training

1. Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) offers training at Summer Leadership Institute, Convention and Winter Governance, as well as online training. TASB also offers online training. North Texas Area Association of School Boards (NTAASB) offers training during their meetings. Board Members may also receive training through other registered providers. Experienced Board Members (More than one year of service) to complete required annual and biennial hours which will vary year to year. New Board Members to complete First 90 Days, First 120 Days and Within First Year training as required. Yearly information on required training for both Experienced Board Members and New Board Members can be found within the following link.

[A How-To Guide to Required Training by Tier for Texas School Board Members \(tasb.org\)](https://tasb.org/How-To-Guide-to-Required-Training-by-Tier-for-Texas-School-Board-Members)

2. Board Members should try to limit national school board conferences to one per year. Board Members should not attend any out of district conferences at LISD expense during the spring their board place is on the ballot unless a Board Member is presenting a training session at the conference.
3. Leadership TASB may not be applied for the year a Board Member's place is on the ballot or during their first term on the board. Beginning with their second term of office, a Board Member may apply for Leadership TASB after notifying the Board President and Superintendent. If multiple Board Members request to apply for Leadership TASB at the same time, the Board will determine prior to July 1 which Member may apply.
4. At the April meeting, the Board President is required by law to report whether or not each individual Board Member has or has not met his/her training requirements.
5. To increase the impact of training, the following should be completed:
  - a. Share new learning - Within a month of attending a training opportunity, Board Members should share their learning, including ideas around new policies, programs, or initiatives, by providing a recap of their training experiences to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall ensure that this information is shared in their regular communication with board members along with any recommendations for decisions or next steps.

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- b. Record and report appropriate credits - Credits can often be reported electronically. To receive credit for the training in which a Board Member participates through NTAASB and TASB, a credit number is given for each training session at the end of the session. Forms as well as electronic credit entry is available for recording those numbers. Training credits should be submitted to the Executive Assistant to the Board for recordkeeping.
  - c. Apply new learning in role as Board Member.

Related Policies: BBD(LEGAL), BBD(LOCAL), BBD(EXHIBIT)

## **Reimbursable Board Travel, Expenses, and Training Opportunities**

1. Generally, the district will not pay for personal membership in special group organizations, except for TASB, NTAASB and approved expenses related to advocacy priorities identified in Board Development Operating Procedure Number 4, "Board Advocacy."
2. For a conference or training opportunity to be eligible for reimbursement, it must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Meet the criteria for Board continuing education hours, as defined by statute;
  - b. Be located within the 48 contiguous United States;
  - c. Be limited to the day(s) of travel that serve the Board purpose (i.e., expenses related to additional days added for personal use will not be reimbursed by the district); and
  - d. Have a direct benefit on the Board Member's ability to perform effectively in that role.
3. A Board Member may be reimbursed for reasonable, allowable expenses incurred in carrying out Board business and for allowable expenses incurred while attending meetings or conferences as an official representative of the Board. Alcohol is not an allowable expense. Family member travel is also not an allowable expense.
4. Board Members should present the LISD tax exempt form to a hotel during check-in.
5. Payment for authorized and documented travel expenses will be made in accordance with legal and local requirements.
6. Arrangements for air travel, lodging and rental cars can be made by the Executive Assistant to the Board. The Board Member is responsible for notifying the Executive Assistant his/her preferences for time of travel, seating, lodging accommodations and choice of rental car vehicle type, where appropriate. Please notify the Executive Assistant to the Board if you plan to book any aspect of your own travel.
7. Following the completion of travel, a Board Member must submit to the Superintendent's office a "Travel Expense Form," with itemized receipts for allowable expenses attached, within thirty days of the travel. Please email the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent for a copy of the travel form.
8. Trustees shall make prudent spending decisions while traveling.
9. Board members who cancel paid conferences, events or meetings, e.g., chamber luncheons, without good cause that result in the district incurring expenses shall reimburse the district for the expenses. Events have different cancelation notification policies. Board Members should



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notify the Executive Assistant to the Board if they change their calendar RSVP less than 48 hours before an event.

10. All Board members attending a conference or training session are encouraged to attend two-thirds or more of available continuing education opportunities. All “early bird” workshops paid extra by the district must be attended except in a case of emergency. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the cost of the training not being covered by the district.
11. All personal costs (outside of travel, parking, lodging, and meals as allotted by law and District policy) will be borne by individual Board members.
12. Board members will be reimbursed for all allowable expenses unless prior arrangements for payment are made with the Superintendent’s office.
13. Questions regarding travel will be addressed through the Board President.

Related Policies: BBG(LEGAL), BBG(LOCAL)

## Advocacy

The Board places a high priority on advocacy at the local, state, and national levels for the specific interests of the district and for public education, in general.

1. The Board will create district legislative priorities and advocacy plan prior to the opening of the biennial session of the Texas Legislature and communicate those priorities to area legislators (see Addendum B). These priorities may be updated as necessary to remain current and responsive.
2. The Board will annually determine a process for organized engagement between members and the local, state and federal community and elected leaders.
3. The Board will coordinate advocacy efforts with the Superintendent or designee.
4. Board Members are expected to do the following:
  - a. Advocate for the high achievement of all district students.
  - b. Create and support connections with community organizations to provide community-wide support for the high achievement of all district students - Texas Education Code 11.1512.
5. Texas law prohibits district employees or officials (including Board Members) from knowingly using public funds, directly or indirectly, for political advertising to advocate for or against a candidate measure that will appear on a ballot.
6. Texas law allows Board Members, acting as private citizens and without the use of public funds, to engage in political advocacy.
  - a. Board Members invited, for example, to speak at a community meeting in favor of a bond proposal may do so.
  - b. If a Board Member chooses to initiate independent political advocacy on an issue that is not a district legislative priority, including, but not limited to initiating communication with a member of the legislature (or a member of such legislator’s staff) or testifying before a governmental or legislative committee or agency, the Board Member should clearly communicate that such independent political advocacy reflects his/her own opinions and actions and does not reflect the opinions or actions of the district or of the



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Board. It is imperative that the Board Member disclose such in order that established district legislative priorities are distinguished from, and not diminished or otherwise superseded by, the Board Member's independent political advocacy.

7. At each Board Meeting (a) following the adoption of the district's legislative priorities and advocacy plan, and continuing thereafter during the subsequent regular session of the Texas legislature and (b) during the term of any special called session of the Texas legislature, the Board President shall include a discussion item on the agenda during which individual Board Members may inform all other Board Members of their significant advocacy efforts, including any independent political advocacy on an issue that is not a district legislative priority.
8. Board Members are encouraged to serve as a delegate, representative, or member to local, state and national organizations. Board members should inform the Board President if they have a particular area of interest for such service.

Related Policies: BE (LEGAL)

## Activities Related to Elections

### Election Activities

1. Board Members will follow all applicable law in all campaign activities.
2. Neither the Board, as a body corporate, nor any Board Member individually, will use district funds or other resources to electioneer for or against any candidate, measure on a ballot or political party. Texas Education Code 11.169.
3. No Board Member seeking re-election to the Board will solicit district employees for support or endorsement of their candidacy during such employee's work hours or at any time while on district property.

### Providing Endorsements

1. The Board, as a body corporate, will not endorse any candidate running for any public office.
2. Recognizing that the Board operates as a non-partisan elected body that works with other elected officials in its duties, individual Board Members should exercise heightened caution when providing a personal endorsement to any candidate, including all social media.
3. If an individual Board Member chooses to provide an endorsement to a candidate for elected office, no reference to the Trustee's role as a Lewisville ISD Board Member will be used in making or discussing the endorsement.

### Board Elections

1. Board Members serve three-year terms that expire on a rotating basis. A Board election is held every year in May, or as otherwise required by law, to fill seats that are contested or are or will become vacant. If all seats are uncontested, the election may be canceled. At the conclusion of an election, Board Members work together as a body corporate to govern the district in a cooperative manner.

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- a. The Lewisville ISD Board of Trustees at its August 28, 2023 meeting finalized the district's plan to transition to five single-member districts and two at-large seats beginning in the May 2024 Board election.
  - b. The Board remains steadfast in its belief that every Trustee represents every student across our 127-square mile district, and not just those in close proximity to the residence of a Trustee. Board members will work together to ensure Lewisville ISD continues to engage and inspire learners and leaders, and that all the families served feel a sense of belonging in our schools.
2. Individually, Board Members may participate in the electoral process according to each Board Member's individual conscience. However, Board Member support of candidates in a Board election can have an adverse impact on the ability to function cohesively and constructively as a corporate body.
  3. Board Members are encouraged to consider such impact, as well as the influence their elected position may elicit in the political process, and therefore, should give careful consideration prior to endorsing any candidate running for the Board.

## **Compliance with Board Operating Procedures**

### **Board Members' Concerns about another Board Member's Performance**

If a Board Member has a serious, specific, concern about the performance of another member which appears to be in violation of Board Operating Procedures or Policies, the recommended process for addressing such concerns shall be the following:

1. The concerned member shall have a private conversation with the member in a timely manner in order to work out the differences or resolve the issue(s).
2. Concerns should be addressed directly by the concerned member and not communicated anonymously through another member or third party.
3. If the concern(s) remain, the concerned member will meet privately with the Board President and outline the specific issue(s). The Board President and the concerned member will meet with the member and attempt to resolve the issue(s). If the concern is with the performance of the Board President, the Vice President will be notified and will meet with the concerned member.
4. If the issue is still not resolved, the concerned member will hold a conference with the Board President (or Vice President if concerns are regarding the President) and the Superintendent to develop a plan of action to resolve the concerns.
5. When a member with concern(s) about another member's performance has gone through the outlined steps above and the issue(s) remain unresolved the concerned member will, through the Board President, request that an item be placed on an upcoming meeting agenda as an executive/closed session item, posted as "Consideration of the Duties of a Public Officer." See Board Operating Procedure, Meetings, "Preparation of the Agenda," regarding the steps to follow when placing an item on the agenda.

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6. Should the Board determine that reprimand or censorship is warranted, such action may only be taken in a duly posted public meeting.
  7. No action may be taken that would conflict with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
  8. Nothing in this operating procedure shall be construed to limit a Board Member's constitutional rights.

Related Policies: BBC(LEGAL), BBF(LOCAL)

## Censure of a Board Member

1. If a Board Member acts in a manner that is unbecoming of a member and disruptive to the business of the district, the Board may pass a resolution to censure that Board Member. This would consist of a calmly worded statement identifying the following:
  - a. The inappropriate behavior of the named Board member.
  - b. The desired behavior.
  - c. A statement of agreement by a majority of the Board members that the behavior is inappropriate.
2. Resolutions are non-binding, but they have the effect of publicly disciplining a colleague, since removal from office is rare.
3. The Board may choose to withhold financial resources from the offending Board member. Examples might be disallowance of reimbursement for attendance at conventions, seminars, or other district travel plans.
4. Under extreme conditions the Board may agree to ask the offending Board member to resign, recognizing that the Board does not have authority to remove any member.

Related Policies: BBC(LEGAL)

## District Vision and Goals

Effective boards are marked by certain characteristics. They have embraced a vision and a set of clearly defined priorities for the district that structures both the Board's decision making and the work of the district staff. They develop and follow clearly defined procedures and schedules for doing their work. They foster, through their own practices, the free flow of information within the community **(to view the District's Long-Range Plan, visit [Long-Range Plan](#))**

1. The district's four cornerstones will form the basis of the district's annual goals and initiatives.
2. The Board may, at its discretion, review the goals at any time. At a minimum, the Board will direct the Superintendent to develop a process to review and if needed update the strategic plan every five years.
3. The four cornerstones will serve as a guide for the administration in preparing the district's budget, as well as any other district, department, or campus improvement plans.
4. The district's four cornerstones will serve as the foundation for the district's facilities plan and the technology plan.

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5. All staff will be informed about the four cornerstones as well as understand and implement the annual initiatives in their position.

## Planning

### BOP Year in Review

Comprehensive Year-At-A-Glance document details each month's Board Meeting agenda topics and is available via the District's Intranet, selecting 'Board' on the banner, selecting 'Comprehensive Year-At-A-Glance' icon.

### Preparation of Annual Board Calendar

1. No later than June 30th of each year, the Board President, in cooperation and consultation with the Superintendent, will develop a draft of the Board's annual calendar of Board Meetings. The annual calendar will serve as a template for agenda and activity planning purposes. The calendar will be placed on the Intranet for the board.
2. The Board's annual calendar provides a general planning guideline and can, at a minimum, include the following items:
  - a. Required Board Actions - to include items legally required at specific times
  - b. Items legally required annually but not at specific times
  - c. Items required by Board Policy
  - d. Desired Board Reports
  - e. Student Performance Reports
  - f. Program Evaluation
  - g. Instructional Programs and District Initiatives to review in the upcoming year
  - h. Activities not related to Board Meetings - to include district activities/events, major campus events, meetings of district-related organizations/committees, Board training opportunities/workshops/conventions, business meetings of local governmental agencies, and advisory group meetings.
3. Superintendent will ensure that all necessary information to meet the calendar's timelines will be delivered to the Board Members in compliance with Board Operating Procedure, Meetings, "Preparation of the Agenda."
4. The annual calendar should be placed on the district's website.

Related Policies: BDAF(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL), BJCD(LEGAL), BQ(LEGAL), BR(LEGAL), CFA(LEGAL), CFC(LEGAL), DNB(LEGAL), EB(LEGAL)

### Internal Audit

1. For budget purposes, in February of each year, the Board will consider if they wish to conduct an audit the following year. See attachment "Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees Charter."
2. The Board will review the monitoring of Administrations implementation of previous audit recommendations twice a year once in Fall and once in Spring.

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# Development of Goals

## Board and District Goals (to view the District's Long-Range Plan, visit [Long-Range Plan](#))

1. The Board develops several goals throughout the year including District Goals, Superintendent goals, budget and District Improvement Plan (DIP) goals. Each of these groups are linked to each other. Each year, the Board will conduct a Work Session to establish goals for the next school year:
  - a. In November, data for Beginning of Year HB3 goals will be presented to the Board.
  - b. In the Spring, the Board will establish Board Goals for the next school year.
    - i. Included as part of the Board Goals, are the HB3 goals (TEC Sections 11.185 and 11.186):
      1. at least three annual target board outcome goals
      2. Early childhood literacy
      3. Early childhood math
      4. CCMR aligned to graduates that meet readiness requirements.
    - ii. These goals are adopted:
      1. at each campus
      2. for five years
      3. with annual targets for aggregate student performance and each appropriate student group under the closing the gaps domain.
  - c. In the Spring, the Board will establish District Superintendent goals for the next year. These goals will be included in the Superintendent's annual evaluation. The Superintendent or her designee(s) will be responsible for the creation of annual district initiatives designed to fulfill the district's four cornerstones. The Superintendent will identify which goals the annual initiatives will fulfill.

Related Policies: BAA(LEGAL), BBD(EXHIBIT), BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL), BQ(LEGAL), BQ(LOCAL)

## District Improvement Plan (DIP)

1. The Board Meeting agenda for the September Board Meeting will include an action item for the Board to vote to approve/disapprove the proposed district initiatives as included in the District Improvement Plans (DIP). The DIP will include targets that promote the district's vision established by the Board.
2. Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for an improvement required campus is required by the state to be approved by the Board and submitted to TEA. TIP must address performance areas that originally contributed to the IR rating.
3. Both the DIP and TIP(s) will be placed on the Intranet for the board.

## Development and Adoption of District Budget (full cycle)

1. The Superintendent or designee will draft a detailed budget process calendar to be submitted to the Board in November of each year. The budget process calendar will include:
  - a. Any action items the Superintendent would like included prior to the budget adoption.
  - b. A Work Session, scheduled early in the budget process calendar with concurrence by the Board, to adopt the Board's budget priorities and parameters.
  - c. Approximate dates by which the Board will receive information such as staffing (for all areas) and enrollment projections, revenue and expenditure projections and other data as required by the Board.
  - d. Timelines by which campuses, departments, and other budget project teams will work.
  - e. Timing for final Board review of the proposed budget prior to adoption.
  - f. Timing for completion of legal requirements such as official notices and public hearings.
2. All materials or data, including draft budgets, will be delivered to the Board at least 4 days prior to consideration of the materials.
3. The Superintendent or designee will present a final draft budget, prepared in accordance with the approved budget calendar process, for adoption by the Board at the Board Meeting in August of each year.
4. All actions taken in connection with the budget process and adoption will be done in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Related Policies: BAA(LEGAL), CE(LEGAL), CE(LOCAL), CEA(LEGAL)

## Review of Goals and Programs

The Board reviews goals throughout the year including District Goals, DIP, and the Superintendent formative evaluation.

1. The Board will discuss progress on HB3 goals and progress in the district Edugence dashboard quarterly at a board Work Session or Workshop.
2. Beginning in 2021, every three years the board will conduct a Board Self Evaluation. The Board may use the TASB Effective Board Practices to measure its effectiveness and identify opportunities for improvement. The template is available on the TASB website. The process will be facilitated by the Board President, unless a majority of Board Members feel the process would be better served by using an independent facilitator.

## Superintendent's Performance Evaluation

1. In January, the Board will conduct a formative performance evaluation to discuss progress on the current year's goals. The Superintendent will provide any relevant data prior to this meeting for the Board's consideration.

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- a. Interim performance evaluations may be conducted as the Board determines will be beneficial. The Board will provide the Superintendent with adequate notice of any evaluation and format.
  2. In April, the Board will meet for the summative evaluation of the Superintendent.
  3. In April, the Superintendent will use the Board's evaluation instrument to prepare an annual report that summarizes her performance against the previous year's annual district goals and the Superintendent's personal goals. The Superintendent will submit the report to all Board members and present it at the April meeting. During executive/closed session, Board members may ask questions of and discuss results with the Superintendent.
  4. In April, the Board will meet to discuss their individual evaluation results and discuss the performance results as a team. The Board will, by consensus, agree on the final evaluation. This final evaluation document will be presented and discussed with the Superintendent, along with any recommendations for next year's personal goals and contract status.
  5. In August, the Board will revisit the superintendent annual appraisal process and/or the evaluation instrument.
  6. In October, the Board will review and adopt the Superintendent evaluation calendar and evaluation instrument (See Addendum C).
  7. Any action resulting from the evaluation will be at the sole discretion of the Board.

Related Policies: BBD(EXHIBIT), BF(LOCAL), BJA(LEGAL), BJA(LOCAL), BJCD(LEGAL), BJCD(LOCAL), BJCD(EXHIBIT)

## **Evaluation Instrument**

The Board will ensure that the evaluation process and document(s) will follow all local, state and federal regulations or guidelines.

A comprehensive evaluation includes a performance evaluation and a contract evaluation.

An important part of the evaluation process is making sure expectations are clear, reasonable, and understood by both the Board and Superintendent. Stating expectations and determining how you will measure them are essential to make the evaluation process work effectively. Here are some questions the board should consider: What do we expect the superintendent to accomplish this coming year? Are our goals reflected in budget allocations? Do we have metrics that adequately measure the accomplishment of goals? What has the superintendent accomplished? What improvements are needed for the superintendent?

1. The Board will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Superintendent's performance at least annually.
2. The evaluation instrument will define the criteria for the measurement of the goals.
3. The Board President will make sure that a fully executed copy of the Superintendent's current contract is available to all Board Members.
4. The Board President will schedule the Superintendent's performance evaluation to occur during a posted executive/closed session. Each Board Member will review the Superintendent's annual report and contract prior to this meeting.



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Related Policies: BBD(EXHIBIT), BF(LOCAL), BJA(LEGAL), BJA(LOCAL), BJCD(LEGAL), BJCD(LOCAL), BJCD(EXHIBIT)

## **The Superintendent's Contract Review**

1. Superintendent's contract review, including review of compensation and benefits, will be considered in May following completion of the Superintendent's evaluation.
2. The Board will determine if any changes to the contract terms should be offered.
3. The Board President will work with the Board Counsel to make any modifications to the Superintendent's contract, as approved by the Board.
4. Board Counsel will submit a copy of the revised contract to all Board Members for review prior to final approval.

Related Policies: BJCE(LEGAL), BJCF(LEGAL), BJCF(LOCAL), BJCF(EXHIBIT), BJCG(LEGAL)

## **Board's Review of Instructional Programs and District Initiatives**

1. It is the desire of the Board to have ongoing dialogue about instructional programs.
2. The Board and Superintendent will create a list of programs whose reviews will occur over a multi-year revolving calendar. The program review schedule will be included in the Board's Annual Calendar by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. The program review schedule and program reviews conducted will be placed on the Intranet for the board.

Related Policies: BAA(LEGAL), BBD(EXHIBIT), BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL), BQ(LEGAL) BQ(LOCAL), BQA(LEGAL), BQA(LOCAL), BQB(LEGAL), BQB(LOCAL)

## **Superintendent and Board Superintendent Performance Concerns**

1. A Board Member who has a concern about the professional performance of the Superintendent will discuss such concern with the Board President who will determine the most appropriate manner to bring the concern to the Superintendent's and the Board's attention.
2. Concern about the Superintendent's professional performance may include the following:
  - a. A breach of any term of the Superintendent's contract.
  - b. Violation of a Board Policy or Operating Procedure.
  - c. Failure within a reasonable amount of time to address a specific issue identified by a majority of the Board.
3. The following process may be used:
  - a. The concerned Board Member will meet privately with the Superintendent in a timely manner to discuss his/her concerns in order to resolve the issue(s).
4. If at least 2 Board Members do not feel that the resolution is satisfactory, then the two members may submit a request to the Board President that an item be placed on a future meeting agenda.

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The concerned member must inform the Board President of the specific nature of any concern(s) which prompted the request for an executive/closed session. If the majority of the Board determines that there is a violation or breach of one of the aforementioned items, the following process will be followed:

- a. The exact nature of the deficiency will be documented and discussed with the Superintendent.
- b. A plan for remediation will be written, to include action(s) to be taken and timelines.
- c. The Board President will monitor the plan for compliance and the results will be made part of the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation.
- d. It will be the responsibility of the Board President to ensure that all documentation relating to performance deficiencies will be appropriately placed in the Superintendent's personnel file.

Related Policies: BJA(LEGAL), BJA(LOCAL), BJCE(LEGAL), BJCF(LEGAL), BJCF(LOCAL), BJCF(EXHIBIT), BJCG(LEGAL), DH(LEGAL), DH(LOCAL), DH(EXHIBIT)

## Communications

### Board Member Questions about the Agenda

See section: Meetings, "Board Member Preparation for Meetings."

### Board Member Communications between Meetings

1. The Superintendent will keep all Board Members updated on important district issues.
2. The Superintendent will communicate quarterly progress reports of district/superintendent goals with all Board Members.
3. Any correspondence a Board Member may have received at the district office will be delivered to the Board Member at the earliest opportunity.
4. The Superintendent will communicate requested information to all Board Members in a reasonable time without interfering with the regular conduct of district business.
5. The Superintendent will distribute to all Board Members any information requested for the Board by a Board Member, as appropriate.
6. Board Members may communicate with other individual Board Members or the Superintendent or designee for the purposes of asking clarifying questions, providing clarifying information or socializing under circumstances that do not conflict with or circumvent the Texas Open Meetings Act. Please refer to section "Board Member Requests for Information other than Agenda Items" when asking questions of the Superintendent or designee. Board Members **may not** communicate with other individual Board Members for purposes of soliciting votes in support of or opposition to items of business that may come before the Board.

Related Policies: BBE(LEGAL), BBE(LOCAL), BBI(LEGAL), BBI(LOCAL), BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL), BJA(LOCAL), GB(LEGAL)

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## **Board Member Requests for Information Other than Agenda Items**

1. Board Members will communicate their individual requests for detailed or sensitive non-agenda information to the Superintendent or designee while copying the request to the Board President and Superintendent, as deemed appropriate.
2. If the requested information can be provided from readily available data with no diversion of staff time, then it will be provided within a reasonable amount of time after the request.
3. If the request requires a special report that will divert staff time from established priorities, the Superintendent will notify the requestor and the Board President. The Board President will determine if the request should be considered by the full Board or will direct the Board Member to procedures regarding placing an item on the agenda.
4. The Board President may elect to place the request for information on a future meeting agenda to determine if a majority of the Board agrees the requested information is important for its future decision-making.
5. If the Board agrees that the information is important for future decision-making, then the Superintendent will direct that a report be developed and provided as requested by the Board and commit to a time frame for providing the information.
6. Information requested by one Board Member will be provided to all Board Members at the same time, at the Superintendent's discretion. Should a Board Member request District employees perform follow-up actions, these requests shall be sent to the Superintendent and Board President who will determine the appropriate response timeline and venue.
7. Individual Board Members shall notify the Board President prior to contacting Board Counsel. Written communications from a Board Member to Board Counsel shall be copied to the Board President. If a Board Member is seeking to discuss a concern about the Board President, the Board Member may contact another officer prior to contacting Board Counsel.

Related Policies: BBE(LEGAL), BBE(LOCAL), BDD(LEGAL), BJA(LOCAL)

## **Board Member Contacts with Campuses and District Staff**

1. Board Members are encouraged to visit any campus. Campus visits should be coordinated by the Executive Assistant to the Board unless the Board Member is attending a function to which he/she has been invited.
2. Where possible, the Executive Assistant to the Board should coordinate visits of Board Members in small groups of two or three. Board Members should keep these visits to no longer than one hour to be respectful of campus staff time.
3. Board Members must honor the campus rules and follow district guidelines regarding visitors. Identification badges must be visible while on campus. All visitors are to be escorted or directed by a staff member designated by the principal.
4. Board Members may communicate with any staff member without interrupting scheduled learning periods or interfering with the learning process.
5. Board Members will not attempt to direct the actions of staff or students.

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6. Board Members will not assume a participatory role with staff or students unless specifically requested by campus staff.
  7. Do not attempt to solve problems or make promises.
  8. Remember you are a public servant. Your actions and behavior should reflect this critical role.
  9. Make positive observations about the campus and express any concerns privately to the Superintendent.
  10. These provisions do not pertain to visits by a Board Member when acting in their capacity as a parent or a private citizen.

Related Policies: BBE(LEGAL), BBE(LOCAL)

## **Board Member Responses to Community or Employee Complaints**

1. If a parent, employee, or community member contacts a Board Member regarding a concern or complaint over school business, the member should refer the person to the appropriate District administrator.
2. In speaking with a person, members should listen respectfully and remain impartial in their response.
3. The chain of command is the appropriate channel to take to get problems solved, and the person at the lowest level and closest to the problem should strive to solve an issue.
4. Ask if the complainant has followed the district's procedures and/or chain of command. Determine if the escalation process is formal or informal by referring to FNG(LOCAL) for student/parent issues, GF(LOCAL) for community issues, and DGBA(LOCAL) for employee issues.
5. If the complainant does not know the procedures or chain of command, provide the information about the informal and formal grievance processes by referring to policies mentioned above. Even after initiating the formal complaint process, a complainant is encouraged to seek an informal resolution of his/her concerns. A complainant whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.
6. The Superintendent will inform Board Members of the resolution, or progress, of any referred issue.
7. In considering any matter, Board Members are required to be objective and impartial. Board Members should be aware that direct involvement in an administrative matter not yet before the Board may render the member unable to be objective or impartial when the matter properly comes before the Board. Board Members who are not able to be objective or impartial should recuse themselves from the decision-making process and abstain from a vote. If a Board Member believes that recusal or abstention may be necessary for an upcoming agenda item, he/she will notify the Board President and Superintendent.
8. If a Board Member is made aware of an issue or concern received from a parent, community member or staff member, the Board Member shall notify the Superintendent and Board President in a timely manner. The timeline and content of the response shall be determined by the Superintendent and Board President. A response shall be provided to the Board Member in a timely manner.

## Board Member Communication with the Media

1. The Board President or designee will be the spokesperson for the Board.
2. Press releases issued on behalf of the Board will be approved by the Board prior to release, unless an emergency or public necessity exists.
3. The Superintendent or a designated staff member will be the official spokesperson for the district on issues of media attention that relate to district operations.
4. A Board Member who receives contact from the media requesting information, comments, or an interview regarding district business should direct the person to the Executive Director of Communications.
5. The Superintendent will notify the Board, periodically, of any media requests. If the matter is urgent, the Superintendent will notify each Board Member via phone or e-mail, whichever is more practical.
6. The Superintendent or designee will keep Board Members apprised of issues the media may be considering.
7. Board Members will not make statements to the media regarding personnel or other matters protected by law.
8. A Board member retains the right to speak at meetings, hearings, public functions, or to the media, but all remarks should be identified as expression of personal opinion. However, members should understand that any comment will likely be interpreted by viewers/readers as an official statement of the Board. In speaking as an individual, the Board Member should do the following:
  - a. Clarify that he/she is speaking as an individual and not for the Board.
  - b. Remind the media representative(s) that official statements of the Board are made only by the Board President (or his/her designee).
  - c. Remind the media representative(s) of the position or action of the Board related to the issue in question.
  - d. Notify the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent, the Executive Director of Communications and Board President about the media request.
9. Once a majority decision has been reached, individual Board members will publicly support that vote.

Related Policies: BBF(LOCAL)

## Board Member Communication with the Community

1. Board Members will communicate with the community through public forums, regular Board meetings, committee meetings, electronic media, and regular publications, as appropriate to the role.

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2. To be most effective, Board Members should be present and active in the local community. As such, Board Members are encouraged to participate in community activities as liaisons between the public and the school district. When speaking to members of the community, Board Members are expected to do the following:
    - a. Listen politely and respectfully.
    - b. Accurately relay information about the district.
    - c. Refer questions about specific district activities/issues to the appropriate staff person or spokesperson when they do not know the answers.
    - d. Clarify Board Member's limitations, obligations, and responsibilities as a member of the Board.
    - e. Respect Board decisions.
    - f. Relay official action by the Board, if applicable.
  3. Citizens wishing to express themselves generally about school business should be directed by Board Members to use one or more of these options for expression of their opinion: contact appropriate staff members; e-mail, telephone or write Board Members; speak at public forums or participate in the open forum portion of a Board Meeting.
  4. Board Members are encouraged to respond to phone calls, written correspondence, including, but not limited to, e-mail, text messages or social media from constituents, but should bear in mind that any such responses may be subject to Public Information Act requests and may be applicable to the Texas Open Meetings Act.
  5. A Board Member retains the right to respond to an individual but must understand that such communication may be interpreted as being an official statement of the Board. The member should do the following:
    - a. Clarify that he/she is responding as an individual and not for the Board.
    - b. Remind the individual any position/action the Board has officially taken on the subject.Board Members are encouraged to share communications they receive with the Superintendent for distribution to the rest of the Board if the information is not of a personal or confidential nature and it is not obvious that the individual has contacted the rest of the Board Members.
  6. Board Members will not respond to anonymous communications, unless the communication pertains to criminal, health or safety issues. Any such communication, pertaining to criminal, health or safety issues, will be forwarded to the Superintendent for action. Board Members will be informed, if appropriate. If a Board Member receives any communication which he/she perceives to be of a threatening nature, the Board Member will immediately call and forward the communication to the Superintendent for action. Superintendent will contact all Board Members, if deemed necessary.
  7. Non-threatening anonymous communications should be shared with the Superintendent.
  8. Board members who participate in social media, such as but not limited to Facebook and Twitter, should be careful to avoid online conversations that could be construed as speaking for the Board of constituting an online board meeting.

Related Policies: BBF(LOCAL), BED(LOCAL), FNG (LOCAL), DGBA (LOCAL), GF(LOCAL)

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## Patrons Addressing the Board

1. Members of the public may address the Board during regularly scheduled board meetings during the open forum portion of the meeting. Board Members will listen to the comments but will not engage in a two-way dialogue with patrons.
2. The Board, through the presiding officer or Superintendent, can offer factual information, cite Board policy, or direct the administration to investigate items and report back to the Board but shall not engage in a two-way dialogue with patrons.
3. Regarding the Public Comment portion of the agendas, the following will be read by the Board President or designee prior to Public Comments:

Public Comments are next on the agenda. Those who wish to speak at a board meeting often expect a dialogue with the Board of Trustees, however, in accordance with Texas Law, the Board is not able to respond directly to comments or questions posed by speakers. Texas law also does not allow the Board to discuss or take action on any issue presented during the public forum unless the item has already been posted for action on the meeting agenda.

Each speaker will receive a written follow-up from the district in the next three business days. The Board and district administration values the feedback shared during this time of the meeting, and we are grateful for the continued partnership between LISD and the families and communities we serve.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT: LEWISVILLE ISD STAKEHOLDERS**

Lewisville ISD Stakeholders – meaning current students, parents, employees and residents of Lewisville ISD – will have a maximum of three minutes each for their presentation.

For each speaker: [Please state your name and address]

### **PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-STAKEHOLDERS**

Non-Stakeholders will have one minute for their presentation. Again, the Board cannot deliberate on any subject that is not included on the Agenda. For each speaker:

[Please state your name and address]

Related Policies: BED(LOCAL)

## Board Member Communication with Governmental or Legislative Agencies

1. The Superintendent or a designated staff member will testify at any public hearing or other governmental proceeding on behalf of the district, unless the Board otherwise directs.
2. The Board President or designee will be the spokesperson for the Board, unless the Board directs otherwise, and such testimony will be limited to positions officially adopted by the Board or general practices of the district.



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3. If a Board Member chooses to speak or testify in front of another governmental or legislative agency on an issue that is not intended to be a reflection of any Board position, the Board Member must clarify that such testimony reflects his/her own opinions and not that of the Board.
  4. If a Board Member is invited to speak or wishes to speak on behalf of the Board, he or she must obtain approval of the Board.
  5. If a Board Member is going to testify/speak, he or she should provide the Superintendent and Board President with a copy, in advance if possible. The Board President will notify the rest of the board of the upcoming testimony.
  6. Nothing in this Operating Procedure may be construed in such a way that would violate the Texas Open Meetings Act or a Board Member's constitutional rights.

Related Policies: BE(LEGAL)

## Speaking Engagements

1. Board Members are encouraged to draw upon opportunities to speak to the public outside of Board Meetings when requested by citizens of the district. Speaking engagements will help promote a better understanding of topics relating to the district and allow the public to become more acquainted with the members of the Board.
2. Every Board Member may accept opportunities to visit with their constituents. If unable to accept, consider suggesting another Board Member to attend.
3. A Board Member will inform the Superintendent and Board President if he/she has been directly requested to give a public presentation.

Related Policies: DBD(LOCAL)

## Meetings

### Types of Meetings

There are a variety of meetings for Board Members. Attendance at some meetings is more critical than others, but all are important to attend. Board Members shall make attendance at Board Meetings a priority and each member shall strive to ensure that s/he is in attendance for all meetings. Board Members shall notify the Board President and Superintendent of his/her absence from a meeting at least 24 hours in advance if possible.

While most meetings occur on a regular basis, dates can change or meetings can be omitted altogether due to other conflicts on the calendar.

1. **Board Meetings** - These open meetings are usually held in accordance with the published calendar, at the Lewisville ISD Administrative Center Board Room, 1565 W. Main Street, Lewisville, at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of every month (exceptions do apply). These meetings are preceded by an executive/closed session beginning at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public and are subject to provisions of Texas law. They are held to conduct the formal business

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of the district in public. Action may be taken during this meeting. The Board Meeting is streamed online and available at all times on the LISD website.

2. **Executive/Closed Sessions** - These meetings are not open to the public and typically include consultation with legal counsel or special hearings for the Board. No vote or action may be taken in executive/closed session.
3. **Workshops** - These open meetings are held for Board members and staff to engage in intensive discussion on subjects or projects that will most likely come to the Board at a regular Board Meeting. The meeting could be preceded by an executive/closed session.
4. **Work Sessions** - These meetings are held for Board members to receive information and to discuss items with staff. These meetings are held at various times during the school year. Some work session topics may come to the Board at a later date during a Board Meeting. The meeting may or may not be preceded by an executive/closed session.
5. **Community Input Sessions** - On issues of broad community interest, the Board may decide to conduct public input sessions. Examples include tax rate setting, boundary changes, feeder pattern changes, bond packages and similar topics. This meeting may be held at individual schools or at a location other than the Board Room in the Lewisville ISD Administrative Center, 1565 W. Main Street, Lewisville.
6. **Special Meetings** - A special meeting is a business meeting held on a date other than the regularly scheduled meeting. Action may be taken.
7. **Emergency Meetings** - An emergency meeting is a business meeting scheduled with at least a one-hour notice to the public. An emergency meeting is usually called to address a situation which must be handled immediately. Action may be taken.
8. **Board Committees**- The Board President may choose to designate a committee consisting of 2-3 Board Members for a specific purpose. Below is the list of current committees and their descriptions. While committees may develop and present recommendations, any decisions or actions will be taken by the entire board.
  - a. Board Audit Committee
    - i. Purpose: To ensure fiscal transparency and internal accountability.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      1. Oversee audits of district operations and finances
      2. Review findings with external auditors
      3. Recommend improvements to internal controls and processes
  - b. Superintendent Evaluation Committee
    - i. Purpose: To provide a fair and comprehensive assessment of the superintendent's leadership.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      1. Review district progress against strategic goals
      2. Conduct annual evaluations using agreed metrics
      3. Recommend contract adjustments and professional development
  - c. Policy Committee
    - i. Purpose: To keep district policies aligned with current law and best practices.

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- ii. Responsibilities:
    - 1. Draft and revise local board policies
    - 2. Ensure legal compliance and ethical standards
    - 3. Provide recommendations for board adoption
  - d. Employee Awards & Recognition Committee
    - i. Purpose: To celebrate outstanding contributions by district staff.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Develop recognition programs across roles
      - 2. Coordinate annual awards and celebratory events
      - 3. Encourage positive staff culture and morale
  - e. Legislative/Advocacy Committee
    - i. Purpose: To represent district interests at the state and national level.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Monitor legislative activity affecting public education
      - 2. Advocate for policy priorities to elected officials
      - 3. Collaborate with other districts and education coalitions
  - f. Finance Audit Committee (FIRST Report)
    - i. Purpose: To review and interpret the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Analyze FIRST rating outcomes
      - 2. Ensure ongoing financial stewardship
      - 3. Make recommendations based on findings
  - g. Facility Naming Committee
    - i. Purpose: To guide the naming of new or existing district facilities.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Solicit community input
      - 2. Ensure names reflect district values and diversity
      - 3. Present recommendations to the full board
  - h. Superintendent/Board of the Year Committee
    - i. Purpose: To promote leadership excellence by nominating district achievements.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Prepare nominations for regional/statewide honors
      - 2. Highlight collaborative governance and student-centered impact
      - 3. Celebrate leadership milestones
  - i. Program & Budget Review Committee
    - i. Purpose: To evaluate alignment between programs and budgetary priorities.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Assess the effectiveness of instructional and support programs
      - 2. Recommend adjustments based on student needs and outcomes
      - 3. Promote efficient resource allocation
  - j. Board Operating Procedures Committee

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- i. Purpose: To refine procedures guiding trustee conduct and effectiveness.
  - ii. Responsibilities:
    - 1. Review and update operating protocols
    - 2. Promote transparency and consistency in board actions
    - 3. Support trustee onboarding and development
  - k. Appraisal District Nominations Committee
    - i. Purpose: To participate in appointing representatives to local appraisal district boards.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Review candidates' qualifications and community standing
      - 2. Recommend representatives to the board
      - 3. Ensure fair property valuation practices for school funding
  - l. Safety & Security Committee
    - i. Purpose: To help safeguard students, staff, and campuses.
    - ii. Responsibilities:
      - 1. Review emergency plans and safety audits
      - 2. Recommend investments in security technology and training
      - 3. Collaborate with law enforcement and crisis response teams

Related Policies: BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL), BEC(LEGAL), BED(LEGAL), BED(LOCAL) DGBA(LEGAL), DGBA(LOCAL), FNG(LEGAL), FNG(LOCAL), GF(LEGAL), GF(LOCAL)

## **Preparation of the Monthly Board Meeting Agenda**

1. Agendas are drafted by the Superintendent in consultation with the Board President, but final approval for the agenda is the sole authority of the President.
2. At least two Board members may request that a subject be included on the agenda for a meeting, and the Superintendent shall include the subject on the preliminary agenda if timely submitted. See "Agenda Item Submission Guide." The deadline for submitting items for inclusion on the agenda is noon of the tenth calendar day before regular meetings and noon on the third calendar day before special meetings. Two Board Members may request removal of an Agenda Item. They must submit their request to the Board President no later than 3 calendar days preceding any Board Meeting. The Board President has final say on removal of an item.
3. Requests for agenda topics will be forwarded to the Board President and Superintendent.
4. No item can be placed on a Board Meeting agenda by the Superintendent less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting unless an emergency or urgent public necessity exists.
5. Preliminary agenda packets will be electronically posted to BoardBook premier and e-mailed 10 days in advance of Board Meetings. BoardBook premier is an online service for the board agenda and agenda documentation (packet).
6. The Superintendent will ensure that adequate back up materials are provided for each Board Meeting agenda item. Items not available when the agenda is electronically posted and e-mailed will be updated on BoardBook premier and e-mailed immediately upon completion

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7. The Superintendent will ensure all necessary or requested information is supplied to the Board Members to allow for informed decisions.
  8. The dates, times, and locations of all Board Meetings will be published on the Board approved meeting calendar, which may be found on the LISD website under the "Board" tab and at the LISD Administrative Center, 1565 W. Main Street, Lewisville.
  9. Consent Agenda - The consent agenda shall include items of a routine and/or recurring nature grouped together under one action item. For each item listed as part of a consent agenda, the Board shall be furnished with background material. During a board meeting any board member may remove an item from the consent agenda for special consideration. However, prior to the meeting the Board member will make every effort to inform the Superintendent of his or her intent so that the appropriate staff member can be prepared. Examples of such items include:
    - a. Routine financial information or updates
    - b. Minutes of regular and special Board meetings
    - c. Routine bid recommendations
    - d. Items discussed previously at Board Work Sessions

Related Policies: BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL)

## **Board Member Preparation for Meetings**

1. Board Members will read and study the packet prior to each meeting.
2. Board Members will direct their individual requests for additional materials or information relating to agenda items to the Executive Assistant to the Board via e-mail by the Wednesday before the board meeting. Answers will be compiled and sent to the board by Friday.
3. The Superintendent or designee will ensure that any additional materials or information that is provided to one Board Member is provided to all Board Members.
4. In order to honor the time of the administrative staff, Board Members will make every attempt to submit questions about Board Meeting agenda items as soon as possible before a meeting.
5. If the requested information is not readily available or requires a significant investment of time that will divert staff from established priorities, the Superintendent will notify the requestor and the Board President as soon as possible.
6. The Board President will place the request for information on the next meeting agenda if at least two Board Members agree that Board discussion of the requested information is important for future decision-making.

Related Policies: BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL)

## **Board Participation during Meetings/Public Forums**

1. All Board Members are expected to conduct themselves professionally and ethically during all meetings and public forums.
2. Cell phone use should be limited to such a degree that it is not distracting to others at the dais, members of the audience or the Board Member communicating. Board Member shall remove themselves from the dais if communication is of an emergency nature that requires their full

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attention. Board Members should remember that communications regarding district business, even if done through a personal device, are subject to the Public Information Act and may be requested by members of the public.

3. Board President is permitted to have phone or iPad available for communication with legal counsel and/or security during board meetings.
4. Board etiquette restricts board members from external communications during meetings.
5. If, during a meeting or public forum, any member conducts themselves in a manner that is intolerable or prevents the accomplishment of goals, the Board President may adjourn or recess the meeting.
6. Differences of opinion, if respectfully submitted, are not to be construed as unacceptable behavior but rather as alternate views on a subject.
7. Meetings held by teleconference may only occur if an emergency or public necessity exists, as defined by the Texas Open Meetings Act, and it is difficult or impossible to convene a quorum of the Board at one location. Such meetings must meet all requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act.
8. A Board Member not present at the physical location of a regular board meeting may participate via videoconference as long as a quorum of the Board, including the presiding officer, is physically present at one location accessible to the public. The Board Member must be audible and visible to the public at all times during the open portion of the meeting. The Board Member shall be counted as present and permitted to participate in the meeting for all purposes. A board member wishing to participate via videoconference shall notify the Board President and Superintendent at least three business days before the meeting to allow staff time to set up and test the connection.

Related Policies: BE (LEGAL), BED(LEGAL), BED(LOCAL), BBF(LOCAL)

## **Board Participation in Discussion, Debate and Voting**

1. At meetings and work sessions, if Board Members have questions during staff Information presentations that are not easily answered during the meeting (*e.g.*, lack of specific information) Board Members are encouraged to send questions to the Superintendent after the meeting, and staff will provide the answer within one week.
2. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised is the parliamentary procedure adopted in policy by this Board. Meetings, motions, and debate will follow these guidelines unless suspended by a two-thirds vote of members present.
3. All Board Members are expected to conduct themselves with professionalism, respect, integrity.
4. The Board President, or chair, of a meeting will recognize any member who wishes to speak on a subject. Members will not be allowed to speak a second time until every member who wishes to participate has spoken once.
5. Debate and discussion must continue until such time as each Board Member feels that he/she has had adequate time to ask clarifying questions or make other comments, unless the previous question has been moved and adopted.
6. Questions or comments must always be germane to the current agenda item.

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7. No Board Member will coerce another member to vote in a particular manner, and no member may attempt to solicit votes in any manner inconsistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
  8. No Board Member will criticize any other member with regard to his/her questions, discussion, or vote.
  9. Board Members should participate in every vote to the extent possible but may choose to abstain from any vote. Members abstaining from a vote must briefly state their reason for the abstention.
  10. Only Board Members who are counted as present may participate in discussion, debate or voting.
  11. In case of a tie vote, the item fails.
  12. Dissenting and abstaining votes shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board Meeting.
  13. Once a majority decision has been reached, individual Board members will publicly support that vote.
  14. Nothing in this operating procedure will be construed to limit a Board Member's ability to ask questions during the board meeting.

Related Policies: BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL), BBF(LOCAL)

## **Board Responses to Inquiries about Executive/Closed Session**

1. Given the legal and sensitive nature of executive/closed sessions, the members of the Board understand that the law requires that all such sessions be strictly confidential.
2. When it is apparent to the Board that it would be in the best interest of the students, staff, community or Board to make a statement regarding anything that occurs in or results from an executive/closed session, the Board President will compose an official public statement that meets with the approval of a majority of the Board. Any such statement will comply with the limitations of the law.
3. If individual Board Members are pressed for information regarding executive/closed sessions, that Board Member will state clearly that he/she can give no information other than what is posted on the agenda. If pressed further, the Board Member will refer the inquiry to the Board President and Superintendent.

Related Policies: BEC(LEGAL), BBF(LOCAL)

## **Participation by People Other Than Board Members in Executive/Closed Sessions**

1. No person, other than the Board Members is entitled to attend or participate in executive/closed sessions. The Superintendent shall participate in all executive/closed sessions unless otherwise provided by Board Policy, Board Operating Procedures or the Superintendent's contract.
2. If the Board President or the Superintendent believes that consultation with a person or group would be beneficial to the discussion and allowable under state law, that person or group may be invited to participate for a specific purpose. Such consultants must leave the room upon the conclusion of their participation or when the Board no longer believes such participation is productive.



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3. The Superintendent may be prohibited from participating in executive/closed sessions where the Board may be considering any aspect of her employment or job performance.
  4. In the event any persons other than the Board and Superintendent participate in executive/closed sessions, the Superintendent and Board will ensure that the participant(s) are aware of the limitations placed on disclosure of the content of the discussion occurring in executive/closed session.

Related Policies: BE(LEGAL), BE(LOCAL), BEC(LEGAL)

## **Executive/Closed Session Procedures**

1. Topics that can be discussed in executive/closed session include the following:
  - a. Personnel: Resignations, employment, evaluation, appointment, assignments, terminations, non-renewal, additions, and extension and/or renewal of contracts of individual teachers, individual administrators, individual support staff, and Superintendent's evaluation and/or contract (Policies related to these topics can be found on the online LISD Board Policy Manual
  - b. Private consultation with the attorney regarding contemplated litigation or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551.
  - c. Discuss purchase, exchange, lease, sale or value of real property. ○ Deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.
  - d. School children; school district employee; disciplinary matter or complaint.
2. All matters discussed in executive/closed session are considered confidential. Board Members will not disclose executive/closed session conversations.
3. The Board Secretary will take minutes of executive/closed session meetings. After the Board President has signed, the minutes will be sealed in an envelope and given to the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Related Policies: BEC(LEGAL), DGBA(LEGAL), DGBA(LOCAL), FNG(LEGAL), FNG(LOCAL) GF(LEGAL), GF(LOCAL)

## **Board Hearings of Grievances**

### **Prepare for hearing**

1. The Board normally operates in a legislative capacity for executive/closed sessions. However, it operates in a judicial capacity during a grievance hearing. Members must be fully informed on Board policies relating to the process for grievances in advance of a hearing.
2. Once a grievance reaches a Level 3 hearing with the Board, a hearing date is set. The grievant receives instructions about how the grievance process works.
3. The grievant may request to hold the hearing in executive/closed or open session, but the Board will make the final determination in accordance with state law. and the grievance record, as defined by Board Policy, shall be prepared and submitted to each Board Member and to the grievant for complete review in advance of the hearing.

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4. All grievance-related materials received by a Board Member must be held in the strictest confidence. All materials including video will be made available to Board Members prior to the hearing. Board Members should be notified if more than one hour is needed to read through or view the materials. A Board Member will neither share information from that documentation nor what is heard during the actual grievance proceeding(s).
  5. Board Members only may consider information that is presented during the grievance process; members will not privately seek out information regarding a grievance. No party may present or submit new documentation during the Level 3 hearing.
  6. In considering a grievance at the Board level, Board Members are required to be objective and impartial. Board Members who are not able to be objective or impartial should recuse themselves from the decision-making process and abstain from a vote. If a Board Member believes that recusal or abstention may be necessary for an upcoming agenda item, he/she will notify the Board President and Superintendent.

## Conduct of Hearing

1. The Board Secretary will serve as the timekeeper for the grievance hearing, record the official minutes and create an audio recording of the proceeding.
2. The grievant, district administration, and board may each elect to have its own legal counsel.
3. Either the Board Counsel or presiding officer shall preside over the hearing, depending upon the complexity of the issues and whether attorneys will be present at the hearing on behalf of the parties.
4. As a standard, the grievant and the school district will each have a total of 15 minutes to present its case, including opportunity for rebuttal. The time limit may be adjusted at the discretion of the Board when deemed appropriate. Each party is responsible for allocating the usage of this time as they wish. The Board Secretary can provide minute usage updates during testimony, if requested.
5. Once each party has presented its case, the Board may ask clarifying questions of each party based upon the information presented. The time allocated to this activity is not limited.
6. At the conclusion of all Board Member questions, the Board President or Board Counsel concludes the hearing. The grievant and the school district representatives are excused.

## Deliberate

1. The Board may deliberate in open or closed session, as permitted by law.
2. Grievance decisions become precedent-making events. The Board may seek legal counsel in order to understand the potential implications of any decision. Legal counsel can share information about previous decisions that may impact the current decision.
3. Board Members will return all grievance materials to the Superintendent or her designee upon the conclusion of deliberations.

## Ruling/Decision

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1. The Board may take action in open session following deliberation. The Board may give notice of its decision orally or in writing at any time up to and including the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
  2. Any Board Member who was not present for the entire grievance hearing should recuse him/herself from the vote.
  3. The Board may uphold or reverse the administrative decision at Level 2. If the Board takes no action by the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting, then the administration decision at Level 2 is automatically upheld. The Board also may choose to return the grievance to administration for solution and consideration.
  4. Only the Board President can make public statements on behalf of the Board arising from a grievance.
  5. Any Board Member who violates the Board policy on grievances may be subject to censure.

Related Policies: DCD(LEGAL), DCD(LOCAL), DG(LEGAL), DGBA(LEGAL), DGBA(LOCAL), FNG(LEGAL), FNG(LOCAL), GF(LEGAL), GF(LOCAL)

## Transitions on the Board

### Board Member Vacancies

1. Vacancies on the Board may, and do, occur at times other than at the end of a term. Trustee vacancies may occur if a Trustee moves out of the school district, resigns for personal reasons, or is removed by legal action.
2. The departing Board Member should give written notice of impending resignation and deliver it to the Board President. Possible courses of action to fill the vacancy include:
  - a. Special election
  - b. Regularly scheduled election
  - c. Appointment until a regularly scheduled election
  - d. Leave seat vacant

Related Policies: BDAA(LEGAL), BDAA(LOCAL)

## Board Officers Authority and Role

The duties include but are not limited to the following:

### President

1. Serves as the “face of the Board;”
2. Presides at all Board Meetings;
3. Serves as ex-Officio member of the Lewisville Education Foundation (LEF) Board
4. Appoint Board members to both committee participation and chairmanships;
5. Calls special meetings;
6. Speaks on behalf of the Board at most district-wide events, when requested;
7. Is a signatory on district checks, legal documents approved by Board action, Board resolutions and student diplomas;
8. Responds on behalf on the Board to media requests;

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9. Responds on behalf of the Board to emails received at board@lisd.net;
  10. Has the right to discuss, make motions and resolutions, and vote on all matters coming before the Board.

## **Vice President**

1. Presides at any Board Meetings when the Board President is unable to attend.
2. Speaks on behalf of the Board at events the Board President is unable to attend;
3. Serves as Chair of the Internal Audit Committee
4. Works with Board President to appoint Board Members to both committee participation and chairmanships;
5. Performs other duties as directed by the Board.

## **Secretary**

1. Presides at any Board Meetings that the Board President and Vice-President are unable to attend;
2. Speaks on behalf of the Board at events the Board President and Vice President are unable to attend;
3. Times speakers at grievance hearings;
4. Is a signatory on district checks, legal documents approved by Board action, Board resolutions and student diplomas;
5. Keeps or cause to be kept an accurate record of the proceedings of each Board meeting;
6. Performs other duties as directed by the Board.

## **Election of Officers**

1. Election of Board Officers is governed by Board Policies BDAA (LEGAL), BDAA (LOCAL).
2. No Member shall be eligible for an officer position until completion of one-year minimum current Board experience.
3. Members shall not be eligible to serve as an officer if they have not met the required continuing education requirements.
4. Board Officers shall serve for a term of one year. Officers may succeed themselves in office.
5. Any Board Member who seeks to be elected can make their intentions known to the Board in executive/closed session at any Board Meeting held in the months of April or May.
6. At the first eligible public meeting of the Board after the scheduled Joint General Election date, the members of the Board shall organize by electing Board Officers [BDAA (LEGAL)]. The call of the meeting will include a provision for an executive/closed session for the purpose of reconstituting the officers of the Board.
  - a. During the executive/closed session, the Board will deliberate the duties and qualifications of a public officer. The current Board President will ask for any nominations.
  - b. When reconvened in open session the current Board President will preside over the election of the Board Officers. The current Board President will entertain nominations. Board members will not self-nominate or second their own nomination to serve as an officer from the dais. A nomination requires a second. If additional nominations are

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made, then each office will be voted on separately by the Board according to Robert's Rules of Order. The Board will vote for each office in turn, beginning with the Board President. If there is more than one nominee for a position, candidates will be voted on in the order of their nomination.

- c. Newly elected officers will assume responsibility for their office immediately upon election to the Board Office.
7. In the event of a vacancy in an officer's position the Board may, by majority action of the Board at any duly called meeting, fill the vacancy.
8. The immediate past president and the newly elected president shall meet with the Superintendent within one week of the election of officers to review all matters pending, to ensure the newly elected president has all the information required of the office, and to be sure all operating procedures are completed in a timely manner.

Related Policies: BDAA(LEGAL), BDAA(LOCAL)

## Personnel

### Hiring of Superintendent

1. Select executive search firm - The Board may use a professional executive search firm to conduct the Superintendent search process.
2. Develop Superintendent criteria
  - a. The Superintendent selection process used will become fully defined once the search firm selection is made.
  - b. The Board expects that parents, teachers, community members, administrators, students, business leaders, and Board Members will have an opportunity to provide input into the criteria development process.
  - c. The selected search firm will utilize a process to develop a set of criteria approved by the Board to be used to identify the Superintendent candidates.
3. Select and Interview candidates
  - a. The selected search firm will employ its process to screen applicants and present an initial slate of candidates to the Board.
  - b. The Board will review the slate of candidates and identify a subset of candidates for consideration.
  - c. The Board will interview candidates for consideration using, but not limited to, interview questions created by the Board.
4. Select final candidate(s)
  - a. The Board will select a finalist(s) and provide public notice of the name of the finalist(s) being considered for Superintendent at least 21 days before the date of the meeting at which a final action or vote concerning the employment of the finalist will be taken.
  - b. All information received or reviewed by Board Members in connection with the hiring of a new Superintendent shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to any non-board member, other than employees of the executive search firm or LISD designated staff.

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- c. All deliberations in executive/closed session shall be held confidential.

Related Policies: BJA(LEGAL), BJA(LOCAL), BJB(LEGAL), BJC(LEGAL)

## Hiring of Personnel other than the Superintendent

1. All school district employees report to the Superintendent. The Superintendent is the only employee supervised by the Board.
2. Board Members may not advise the Superintendent on specific hiring decisions unless such input is sought.
3. Board Members should refrain from writing letters of recommendation for any person seeking employment in LISD.
4. The Board is not involved in the interviewing process of district employees.
5. The Superintendent is responsible for making all hiring recommendations to the Board. Board Members may not lobby for specific hiring decisions.
6. Board Members must abstain from any votes on personnel issues if the vote would have a special economic impact on a relative of the Board Member within the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree by blood or the second degree by marriage, as further detailed in Board Policy DBE(LEGAL).
7. If a Board Member has written a recommendation letter for the recommended candidate, he/she should abstain from voting on the candidate's hiring.
8. Nothing in this provision is intended to prevent or in any way limit the ability of Board Members to discuss concerns about specific existing employees or potential candidates with the Superintendent and the Board President.

Related Policies: DBE(LEGAL), DBE(EXHIBIT), DC(LOCAL), DC(LOCAL)

## Board Members' Concerns about the Performance of Employees other than Superintendent

1. When a Board Member becomes concerned about the performance of district employees and/or student welfare, he/she must bring his/her concerns directly to the Superintendent and inform the Board President. Such concerns must be limited to the following:
  - a. Actions which are illegal
  - b. Egregious violations of Board policy.
  - c. Actions which are harmful to the district's or the Board's reputation.
2. Board Members must remain cognizant that district personnel and student welfare are the responsibility of the Superintendent, not the Board.
3. The Superintendent is obligated to listen to such concerns, review the matter, and notify the Board Member of the resolution of the matter to the extent allowable by policy and law.

Related Policies: DBD(LOCAL), DH(LEGAL), DH(LOCAL), DH(EXHIBIT), DHE(LEGAL), DHE(LOCAL), DIA(LOCAL), FFG(LEGAL), FFH(LEGAL), FFH(LOCAL)

## Policy

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## Protocol for the Review and Amendment of District Policies

1. Board Members have access to digital policy manuals. Each Board Member is responsible for becoming familiar with these resources and accessing them accordingly.
2. A review of policies will be a continuous event, coordinated by the Superintendent's designee and policy specialist assigned. The Board President may choose to designate a committee consisting of 2-3 Board Members to provide feedback and support of this process.
3. The Superintendent or designee also will be responsible for ongoing review of policies to ensure that existing policies are still relevant to current local circumstances. The Superintendent will ensure that all district staff has adequate knowledge of the Board policies.
4. LOCAL policy amendments may be initiated by the Superintendent or Board Members.
5. Requests for policy changes are reviewed by the Leadership Team. The Superintendent's designee will draft the revision and submit for legal review prior to placing it on the Information portion of the agenda for consideration by the Board.
6. Adoption of such revised policies will occur as an action item on the agenda.
7. After adoption, the Superintendent or designee will be responsible for incorporating revisions into the Board's Policy Manual.
8. LOCAL policy revisions will be placed, at a minimum, for a first and second reading prior to adoption unless an emergency condition exists which demands an immediate response.
9. LEGAL policy updates, which are provided by TASB in response to changes to applicable law, will be reviewed with a first and second reading at duly posted Board Meetings. No action is required as these changes are immediately binding.

Related Policies: BE(LOCAL), BF(LEGAL), BF(LOCAL), BP(LOCAL)

## Development of District Policies

1. New LOCAL policies may be developed by the Superintendent or Board Members
2. Any newly proposed LOCAL policy will be submitted to the Superintendent.
3. If the Superintendent receives a request from a Board Member proposing a new policy, the Superintendent will forward that request to the entire Board.
4. Requests for policy changes are reviewed by the Leadership Team. The Superintendent or designee will draft the revision and submit for legal review prior to the first reading for consideration by the Board.
5. Such new policy will be presented for a first reading at a Board Meeting. Any proposed amendments will be discussed/considered at the first (or any subsequent, as necessary) reading. Amendments may be considered at any time during the adoption process.
6. For an amendment to be considered on a policy which is on the agenda of a Board Meeting, a majority of the Board must approve the reconsideration. If necessary, the policy may be pulled off the agenda and sent back to the Superintendent for inclusion in the next scheduled Board Meeting.

Related Policies: BE(LOCAL), BF(LEGAL), BF(LOCAL), BP(LOCAL)



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## Traditions of the Board

Former Board Members may, at their option, sit on the stage and hand the High School Diploma facsimile to a family relative. It will be the responsibility of the former Board Member to let the Superintendent and current Board President know that he/she would like to participate in the graduation ceremony.

## *Exhibit A*

# Onboarding of Newly Elected Board Members

## Getting Started

### 1. What to Expect – Prior to First Board Meeting (with Board President)

- Overview of Board Meetings / Board Dinner
- Closed Session Protocol
- Work Session vs Workshops vs Regular Board Meeting
- Dealing with the Media
- Procedures for Campus Visits
- Board Member Representation at Community, Chamber, LISD/Campus Activities
- Review of Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) – Membership benefits
- Review of North Texas Area Association of School Boards (NTAASB)
- Board Counsel
- Conferences:
  - Board Retreat / Team of Eight Training
  - TASB Summer Leadership Institute
  - District Leadership Conference
  - TASA-TASB Convention

### 2. What to Expect – First Board Meeting

- Canvass Election / Welcome New Board Members / Take Place on Dais
- Oath of Office
- Election of Board Officers

### 3. Within the first two weeks after Swearing in

- ID Badge
- Name Tag / Business Cards
- Optional LISD Logo Apparel
- Email User ID and Password
- Football Parking Pass and UIL Pass

### 4. What's Needed – Technology and Devices

- Options - Laptop or iPad
- Optional District Cell Phone

## **5. What to Expect – Superintendent Meeting**

- Four Cornerstone / Long-Range Plan
- Open Door Policy
- Monthly One-on-One meetings
- Communication (Board Notes) / Friday Update
- Evaluation of Superintendent / Superintendent Contract
- Organization Chart / District Leadership Team
- Meet with District Leadership Team

## **6. Training Requirements Review**

- First Year Board Members – approx. 25 hours of New Board member training
- Experienced Board Members – approx. 9-16 hours/year
- Team of 8 Training