

Proposal for Board Meetings

For the purposes of discussion, we would like the Board to consider altering our current schedule of a Board meeting every other week that consists of the same type of agenda to a bifurcated Board meeting that consists once a month of a “Business Meeting” and once a month of a “Work Session.” This recommendation arises out of the following goals of the Board:

- To be a meaningful thought partner to the administration and collaborate with the administration in selecting topics for “deep dives”;
- To understand the details surrounding programs, policies, systems and functions that impact our students most and about which we believe the community is most interested;
- To better support our staff and teachers through increasing our knowledge of research and best practices in education;
- To provide a time/place for community input directly to the Board and administration on these topics;
- To operate efficiently by making meetings streamlined and predictable as far as time; and
- To optimize alignment of the Board and Administration.

Currently, we have 2 Board meetings a month, each scheduled for approximately 3-3.5 hours depending on the agenda. The 3.5 hours generally consist of 1-2 hours of reports and substantive discussion and 1-2 hours of non-substantive albeit important/required business. As a result of this system, we experience:

- Presentations that are often relegated to PPT presentations.
- Discussions that are limited by the scope of presentations and by time.
- Staff, teacher, student, or community feedback comes in the form of public comment which is one-way and does not allow for discussion of the concerns raised.
- The Board does not achieve the level of competency in the subject that it would like to have and its ability to collaborate with the administration is not maximized.

By bifurcating the meeting, I estimate that the “business meeting” can be reduced to 1.5-2 hours (1x per month) and the “work sessions” can be limited to 3.5 hours (1x per month) for a net reduction in meeting time of up to 1.5 hours. By continuing to have 2 meetings, we also do not lose the value of our 2 meeting approach to action items (as necessary). We also build in more time – an entire meeting a month – for regularly scheduled discussions and deep dives when the Board and administration select topics that warrant extended consideration.

Attached is a draft example agenda for each type of meeting if we were to make this change. We will discuss this at the May 23rd Board Meeting.