

Board-superintendent responsibility exercise

Please indicate whether you are:

- ___ In your first term as a board member.
- ___ Have served on the board for four or more years.

1. The school board is/should be totally responsible
2. The school board is/should be primarily responsible
3. The school board and the superintendent are/should be equally responsible.
4. The superintendent is/should be primarily responsible.
5. The superintendent is/should be totally responsible.

How it is

How it should be

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Issue

1. Accepting or rejecting a request from a specific nonschool group to use school facilities.
2. Deciding how to invest \$100,000.
3. Hiring lead counsel.
4. Preparing a line-item budget.
5. Direct discussion with teacher education representatives about salary, work load, and benefits to be included in the next budget.
6. Providing orientation for new school board members.
7. Talking to the press after a weapons incident at the high school.
8. Deciding which courses to cut from the curriculum to meet budget demands.
9. Hiring an assistant superintendent.
10. Selecting textbooks for use in the school system.
11. Authorizing specific expenditures from allocated funds.
12. Appointing people to serve on school advisory committees.
13. Determining what items will be included in the school board agenda.
14. Deciding which school building(s) to close due to declining enrollment.
15. Deciding the grade organization of the system's schools.
16. Transferring a principal from one school to another in the system.
17. Awarding contracts to vendors.
18. Deciding which extracurricular activities the schools will offer.
19. Hiring a high school principal.
20. Deciding individual bus routes.
21. Promoting a teacher to an assistant principal position.
22. Transferring a student from one school to another in the system.
23. Firing the school system's budget officer.
24. Deciding which staff members report directly to the school board.
25. Hiring a basketball coach.
26. Setting school attendance boundaries.
27. Deciding where to deposit school system funds.
28. Approving report cards and grading systems.
29. Writing a mission statement for the school system.
30. Establishing criteria for evaluation of the superintendent.

Source: Dr. Cynthia Elsberry, superintendent, Horry County Public Schools, Conway, South Carolina.

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