

## **Delano Public School Board's Operating Protocol**

The Delano School District board of directors represents the needs and interests of students and staff in the district, making decisions to ensure the rights and welfare of all students and equal access to public education. Board members shall promote a positive, working culture that meets the educational needs of all students. For the purpose of enhancing teamwork among members of the board and between the board and the administration, we, the members of the Delano School Board, do hereby commit ourselves collectively and individually to the following operating protocol.

### **Strategic Direction**

The board is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the district, not for managing the tactics of day-to-day operations. The board will set clear goals for the superintendent, and the Delano School District that align with the strategic direction of the district. The board will enact policies to ensure fair, efficient, and effective operations, and will monitor, but not manage, the implementation of plans and policies.

### **Authority**

Board members have collective, not individual authority. Authority to make decisions is only granted to the board as a whole. The board will exercise its governance oversight responsibilities through policy, planning, advocacy, and public relations. The full board gives direction through policy and delegates the management of the district to the superintendent. Board members dedicate their time to understanding the issues of the district through committee work, district-provided communication, and other means necessary. Board members agree to listen to all constituents, but advise them to follow the chain of command to ensure issues are addressed properly and expeditiously.

### **Accountability**

Board members recognize their accountability to the students, staff, district, community and each other. The board will conduct a yearly self-evaluation through a retreat. The board will regularly monitor progress and performance toward achieving the objectives in the district's strategic plan. Additionally, each board member shall take the time necessary to understand the state's laws and regulations; district policies and procedures; and the contractual obligations which govern the Delano School District. Each board member shall hold themselves accountable and work cooperatively with their fellow board members. Board members will maintain neutrality and avoid the use of their role for personal gain.

### **Communication**

The board will utilize the superintendent's input and will respect the professional expertise of the district staff as necessary for the operation of effective schools. The board will look to the

superintendent and the cabinet to make recommendations, proposals, and/or suggestions on matters that come before the board. Each board member shall focus on building trust and enabling open communications between each other, between the board members and the superintendent, and with the community. Each board member understands the significance of a respectful, productive working relationship with their fellow board members and the superintendent. The board will collaborate to form a collective voice. Board members will suggest topics for future meetings to the board chair, vice chair or the superintendent. The board chairperson is the designated spokesperson for the board and will communicate its position(s) on all issues.

### **Meeting Conduct**

Each board member shall make every effort to attend all board meetings and workshops and will come to each meeting prepared by having read all meeting information and, if necessary, requested and reviewed additional information. All meetings will be conducted in an efficient manner following an agreed-upon agenda so as to avoid surprises. If board members want an item added to the agenda, they will speak with the superintendent and board chair or vice chair prior to the meeting. During the meeting, all board members shall be attentive and will be respectful listeners at all times. Closed sessions will be held only when specific needs arise, per state statute. Board members shall be sensitive to the legal ramifications of their comments at meetings and will respect the confidentiality of privileged information. While we encourage debate and differing points of view, we will use words and actions that create a positive impression of the district, fellow board members, staff, and the constituents of the Delano School District.

### **Lifelong Learning**

Board members shall model lifelong learning and participate in opportunities that provide professional growth.

### **Students First**

Board members shall always put the needs and interests of students first.

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Sarah Baker

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Date

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Corey Black

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Date

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Rachel Depa

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Date

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Jim Gierke

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Date

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Amy Johnson

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Date

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Sue Roeser

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Ryan Schaust

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Date