



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Consideration for Approval of First Reading of Local Policies in TASB Update 117

SUBMITTED BY: Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Deputy Superintendent for Administration

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: June 15, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following revisions to Local Policies and Exhibit:

BBD(EXHIBIT) BOARD MEMBERS TRAINING AND ORIENTATION
CH(LOCAL): PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION
CV(LOCAL): FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

Framework for School Board Development

Preamble: The mission of the public education system of this state is to ensure that all Texas children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of our state and nation (Education Code 4.001).

The board of trustees is the governing body for Texas public schools. To effectively meet the challenges of public education, school boards and superintendents must function together as a governance leadership team. Each leadership team will annually assess its development needs both as a corporate body and as individuals. As a team, they will focus on the improvement of locally developed student outcomes and provide support for opportunities and experiences through vision and goals, systems and processes, progress and accountability, advocacy and engagement, and synergy and teamwork. Teams ensure that their districts provide equitable and effective educational programs and services for all students. The Framework for School Board Development has been approved by the State Board of Education to provide the critical areas of development for all public school boards.

1. Vision and Goals — The board ensures creation of a shared vision and locally developed, measurable goals that improve student outcomes and provide support for opportunities and experiences. The board:
 - Keeps the district focus on the well-being of all children.
 - Adopts a shared vision that incorporates input from the community to reflect local aspirations as well as present and future needs for all children.
 - Ensures that the vision aligns with the state's mission, objectives, and goals for education established by law and/or rule.
 - Adopts a reasonable number of specific, quantifiable, research-based, and time-bound goals that align with state law, are developed with community input, and support the vision to improve student outcomes.
 - Embraces, supports, and fulfills the vision that all students receive what they need to learn, thrive, and grow, including resources, opportunities, and experiences.
 - Uses the vision and goals to drive all deliberations, decisions, and actions.
2. Systems and Processes — The board ensures systems and processes are in place to accomplish the vision and goals. The board:
 - Regularly develops, reviews, and adopts board policies for effective support of the district's vision and goals.
 - Approves a budget that aligns with and maximizes resources to fulfill the district's vision and goals.
 - Monitors multiple, measurable elements of student progress and achievement throughout the year.

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- Incorporates equity when making decisions and evaluating systems and processes.
 - Focuses its actions on following board operating procedures while providing oversight of the superintendent, policymaking, planning and goal setting, progress monitoring, and evaluation, while avoiding involvement in daily operations and management.
 - Approves goals, policies, and programs that ensure a safe and secure learning environment.
 - Ensures the equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and experiences based on the diverse needs of students and schools.
 - Adopts a planning calendar and engages in a decision-making process consistent with state law and rule to help achieve the district's vision.
 - Ensures that the district's planning and decision-making process enables all segments of the community, families, and staff to meaningfully contribute to achieving the district's vision.
 - Welcomes and values all people and cultures as important stakeholders in the process for student success.
 - Ensures the district has a system that monitors for sound business and fiscal practices.
 - Adopts policies regarding hiring, assigning, appraising, terminating, and compensating school district personnel in compliance with state laws and rules.
 - Ensures the district adopts a protocol regarding the recruitment, determination of professional development needs, building of leadership capacity, and retention rates for the district's teachers.
 - Fulfills the statutory duties of the local board of trustees and upholds all laws, rules, ethical procedures, and court orders pertaining to schools and school employees.
3. Progress and Accountability — The board sets clear goals, provides resources and support, evaluates goal attainment, and engages in ongoing objective feedback on progress and commitments. The board:
- Holds itself accountable to its adopted vision, goals, commitments, and operating procedures.
 - Ensures progress toward achievement of district goals through systematic, timely, and comprehensive review of relevant reports and student data that illustrate progress toward locally developed student outcome goals.
 - Ensures equity throughout the system by regularly identifying inequities, updating policies, and appropriately distributing resources.

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- Differentiates among resources, intermediate measures, and outcomes, especially when focusing on student outcomes.
 - Monitors and evaluates the allocation of resources in support of the district's vision and goals and sustainability.
 - Reviews the efficiency and effectiveness of district operations and use of resources in supporting the district's vision and goals.
 - Employs and annually evaluates the superintendent on the achievement of district goals, including locally developed academic goals, demonstration of educational leadership, and management of daily operations.
4. **Advocacy and Engagement** — The board promotes the vision and engages the community in developing and fulfilling the vision. The board advocates on behalf of Texas public schoolchildren. The board:
- Demonstrates its commitment to, and advocates on behalf of, the shared vision and goals by clearly communicating them to the superintendent, staff, and community.
 - Regularly reports district progress to families and the community, which could include an online dashboard for the community.
 - Ensures multiple forms of two-way communication will be used to engage, empower, and connect students, families, staff, media, and community with the district.
 - Builds collaborative relationships and partnerships with families and community, business, nonprofit, higher-education, education support organizations, and governmental leaders to influence and expand educational opportunities and meet the needs of students.
 - Recognizes the respective roles of and provides input and feedback to the legislature, State Board of Education, and the Texas Education Agency to ensure maximum effectiveness and benefit to Texas schoolchildren.
 - Promotes school board service by educating the community about the role of a school board and encouraging leadership opportunities within the community.
5. **Synergy and Teamwork** — The board's duties are distinct, and the board works effectively as a collaborative unit and as a team with the superintendent to lead the district in fulfilling the vision and goals. The board:
- Recognizes its distinct role in establishing the vision and the goals, adopting policies that guide the district, setting priorities, establishing governance protocols to oversee management of the district, adopting and overseeing the annual budget, and hiring and evaluating the superintendent.
 - Recognizes each individual trustee's duty as a trustee and fiduciary for the entire district.

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- Remains focused on its goals and priorities, as opposed to individual agendas separate and apart from the shared vision.
- Annually evaluates its performance as a team, with attention given to the district's vision and goals; fulfilling the board's duties, responsibilities, and commitments; and the board's working relationship with the superintendent.
- Makes decisions as a whole only at properly called meetings and recognizes that individual members have no authority to take individual action in policy or district and campus administrative matters.
- Respects the right of individual members to express their viewpoints and vote their convictions and honors the decisions of the majority.
- Develops teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making skills as a team with its superintendent.
- Understands and adheres to laws and local policies and respects the superintendent's responsibility to manage the school district and to direct employees in district and campus matters.
- Adopts and adheres to established policies and procedures for welcoming and addressing ideas and concerns from students, families, staff, and the community.
- Establishes and follows local policies, procedures, and ethical standards governing the conduct and operations of the board.
- Understands the leadership role of the board president and adheres to local policies and procedures about the duties and responsibilities of the board officers.

Adopted by the State Board of Education, January 1996, as authorized by 19 TAC 61.1(a); revised November 20, 2020.

PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION

CH
(LOCAL)

**Purchasing
Authority**

The Superintendent shall determine the method of purchasing to be used, in accordance with CH(LEGAL) or CBB(LEGAL), as appropriate, and to make budgeted purchases or purchases otherwise authorized by Board action unless state law requires the Board to make or approve a purchase.

Requests to participate in procurement programs authorized under Government Code 791.001 and 791.011—interlocal agreements authorized under Government Code 791.025(b)(c); the state purchasing program authorized under Local Government Code 271.083; or cooperative purchasing programs authorized by Local Government Code 271.102—shall be submitted to the Board for consideration and approval. District participation in these programs shall satisfy all state requirements regarding competitive procurement methods.

With the exception of purchases made via an interlocal agreement, a purchasing cooperative, and/or the state-approved contract, all transactions and/or contracts valued at \$50,000 or more per year, either as a single purchase or in the aggregate, shall require prior approval from the Board.

**Exception for
Emergency
Contracts**

In the event of a catastrophe, emergency, or natural disaster affecting the District, the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to contract for the replacement, construction, or repair of school equipment or facilities in accordance with law, if emergency replacement, construction, or repair is necessary for the health and safety of District students and staff and so long as the total cost is no more than \$50,000. The Superintendent shall report to the Board at the next regular meeting any contract made under this authority. [See Disaster Exception, CH(LEGAL)]

The delegation regarding emergency contracts does not waive competitive purchasing requirements under Education Code Chapter 44. Only the Board is authorized to waive competitive purchasing requirements under limited circumstances in accordance with Education Code 44.031(h). [See Emergency Damage or Destruction, CH(LEGAL)]

**Purchasing
Procedures**

The Superintendent shall develop purchasing procedures to implement the requirements of state and federal law. [See also CB, CBB, CH(LEGAL), and COA]

Competitive Bidding

If competitive bidding is chosen as the purchasing method, the Superintendent shall prepare bid specifications. All bids shall be in accordance with administrative regulations, and the submission of any electronic bids shall also be in accordance with Board-adopted rules. All bidders shall be invited to attend the bid opening. Any bid

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may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening. Bids received after the specified time shall not be considered.

The District may reject any and all bids in accordance with state or federal law, as applicable. On bids that are not required by law, the Board shall consider price, quality, suitability of the product, the bidder's references and record for responsibility, the bidder's knowledge of the product, and service.

For the purchase of like items from unapproved vendors in the amount of \$25,000 to \$49,999.99, written quotes shall be obtained by the District's purchasing department to determine the best value to the District. For purchases of like items from unapproved vendors in the amount of \$3,500 to \$24,999.99, written quotes shall be obtained by the requestor and verified by the District's purchasing department. A policy of obtaining quotes for price comparisons shall be a continuing process to ensure the District's receipt of the lowest prices for supplies and materials.

All records regarding District bids shall be kept on file in the business office.

**Competitive Sealed
Proposals**

If competitive sealed proposals are chosen as the purchasing method, the Superintendent shall prepare the request for proposals and/or specifications for items to be purchased. All proposals shall be in accordance with administrative regulations, and the submission of any electronic proposals shall also be in accordance with Board-adopted rules. Proposals received after the specified time shall not be considered. Proposals shall be opened at the time specified, and all proposers shall be invited to attend the proposal opening. Proposals may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time of opening. Changes in the content of a proposal, and in prices, may be negotiated after proposals are opened.

The District may reject any and all proposals in accordance with state or federal law, as applicable.

**Electronic Bids or
Proposals**

Bids or proposals that the District has chosen to accept through electronic transmission shall be administered in accordance with Board-adopted rules. Such rules shall safeguard the integrity of the competitive procurement process; ensure the identification, security, and confidentiality of electronic bids or proposals; and ensure that the electronic bids or proposals remain effectively unopened until the proper time.

Credit Cards

The District shall have only one credit card account, which shall be chosen and maintained by the Superintendent. Purchases made with the District credit card shall only be for purposes related to

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District business. The Superintendent shall be the only District employee with permission to authorize use of the District credit card by another District employee. The Superintendent shall establish procedures for use of the credit card account so that all use is thoroughly documented.

Any points earned through the use of the District's credit card shall be the property of the District and shall be used only for the benefit of the District, its students, or the uses related to the District's educational purpose, as approved by the Superintendent.

Responsibility for Debts

The Board shall assume responsibility for debts incurred in the name of the District so long as those debts are for purchases made in accordance with the adopted budget, state law, Board policy, and the District's purchasing procedures. [See CE] The Board shall not be responsible for debts incurred by persons or organizations not directly under Board control. Persons making unauthorized purchases shall assume full responsibility for all such debts.

Purchase Commitments

All purchase commitments shall be made by the Superintendent in accordance with administrative procedures, including the District's purchasing procedures.

Personal Purchases

District employees shall not be permitted to make purchases for personal use through the District's business office.

Criminal History

The District shall not consider for contract approval a business whose owner or operator has a criminal record that includes a conviction, deferred adjudication, or plea of guilt or *nolo contendere* for any felony offense.

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

CV
(LOCAL)

**Compliance with
Law**

The Superintendent shall establish procedures that ensure that all school facilities within the District comply with applicable laws and local building codes.

**Construction
Contracts**

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the project delivery/contract award method to be used for each construction contract valued at or above \$50,000 in the aggregate for each 12-month period shall be the job-order contract method set forth in Education Code Sections 44.031(a)(2) and 44.039, Chapter 44, Subchapter B, as determined and approved by the Board to be the best value for the District. If another method is deemed by the Superintendent to be more appropriate for a particular construction project, the Superintendent or designee shall submit a recommendation for the Board's consideration, determination, and approval as a delivery method that provides the best value to the District. [See CV series generally and CBB(LEGAL) for requirements if federal funds are involved.]

For construction contracts valued at or above \$50,000, the Superintendent shall be authorized to execute the resulting contract after the Board has approved the proposal/bid. Lesser expenditures for construction and construction-related materials or services shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent and consistent with law and policy. [See also CH and CBB(LEGAL)]

Note: For provisions regarding delegation of authority for construction contracts in the event of a catastrophe, emergency, or natural disaster affecting the District, see CH(LOCAL).

Change Orders

Change orders permitted by law shall be approved by the Board or its designee prior to any changes being made in the approved plans or the actual construction of the facility. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to approve any change orders in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 prior to any changes being made in the approved plans or the actual construction of the facility, as well as any time extensions to construction contracts without Board approval.

**Project
Administration**

All construction projects shall be administered by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent shall keep the Board informed concerning construction projects and also shall provide information to the general public.

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Final Payment

The District shall not make final payments for construction or the supervision of construction until the work has been completed and the Superintendent has accepted the work.