

Sheridan School Board/Superintendent Operating Agreement

Purpose:

To effectively meet the needs of all students, the school board and superintendent commit to a strong and collaborative partnership based on trust and respect for their mutually supportive roles. This operating protocol outlines our working agreements to promote the ongoing success of the governance (or board-superintendent) team. (Board policy BBF)

Focus on Roles and Responsibilities:

1. The board will maintain a focus on improving opportunities for each and every student in the district.
2. The superintendent will provide adequate background information for the board to have understanding and make thoughtful decisions in their areas of responsibility.
3. The superintendent will provide guidance to board members to help them fulfill their role of providing strategic direction to the district and governing through policy.
4. The board will respect the superintendent's role for managing the routine operations of the district and not micromanage the district.
5. We will not make disparaging comments about students, staff, or district operations in a public meeting.
6. The board will be clear in its collective intent and provide clear and appropriate decisions and communication with the superintendent.

Successful Board Meetings:

1. The superintendent will keep the board informed of district activities through regular communication with each member.
2. The board chair will conduct business meetings in a manner that ensures each board member contributes to discussion and deliberation and all voices are heard.
3. Board members will address the chair when speaking in meetings.
4. The chair shall direct audience members to allow for appropriate participation and keep the business of the board moving in a productive manner.
5. School improvement reports shall be informed and guided by data. That data will be distributed to all board members in advance.
6. Supporting materials for board meetings shall be distributed with the agenda four working days in advance of each meeting.
7. The superintendent shall ensure adequate minutes are taken of each meeting of the board.

Successful Teamwork:

1. Board members will work directly with and through the superintendent to resolve concerns about the operation of the district.
2. Board members will maintain the confidentiality of executive sessions and sensitive issues. They will work collectively with the superintendent to resolve issues.
3. The board will appoint a spokesperson for all issues, and individual members will refrain from speaking publicly on controversial matters.

4. We will not surprise each other in meetings. Individual members and the superintendent will apprise the board chair of questions and concerns at least 24 hours in advance of public meetings.
5. We will treat each other, staff, students, and district stakeholders with dignity and respect.
6. The Board will make clear their individual and collective positions on issues rather than allowing assumptions to be made about group direction – straw votes shall be utilized by the Chair when appropriate.