

Woodbridge Board of Education Retreat
Monday, July 22, 2024 6:00 PM

South Assembly Room

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Conduct Board Self-Evaluation**
- III. **Goal Setting**
 - A. Review / Discuss 2023/24 Goals
(Vote to Adopt 2024/25 August 19 Regular Meeting)
- IV. **Board Operation Efficiencies**
- V. **Donations/Acknowledgments of Milestone Events**
- VI. **Adjournment**

Board of Education Self-Evaluation

Check the most appropriate rating box on a scale of 5-1 (5 representing the highest rating, 1 the lowest) for each question. A "NA" rating is also provided if you are unable to rate on an item for any reason. A space for comments is also provided on page 11 and 12.

Vision	5	4	3	2	1	Not sure
1. The Board has a vision/mission for the school district with a primary focus on student achievement.	5	4				
2. The vision/mission and goals are developed collaboratively with staff and the community.	2	7				
3. The Board institutes a process for long-range and strategic planning that aligns with the vision/mission for the district.	2	4	3			
4. The Board uses the district policy manual to create a culture that supports the vision and goals of the district.	5	2	2			
5. The Board expresses in the vision/mission the belief that high quality instruction in every classroom is the foundation for high achievement for all students.	3	5	1			
6. The Board communicates clearly the goals and expectations for the district, staff, and students with an emphasis on high achievement for all students in the district.	3	5	1			
7. The Board develops goals that align with the vision/mission for the district, foster continuous improvement and remain the highest priorities.	3	6				
Total Vision						
Community Leadership						
8. The Board communicates and interprets the school district's vision/mission to the public and listens, and incorporates appropriate community perspectives into board actions.	2	5	2			
9. The Board works to promote the accomplishments of the district within the district and community at large.		7	2			
10. The Board advocates at the national, state and local levels for students and the school district and promotes the benefits of public education.		2	7			
11. The Board collaborates with other school boards, superintendents, agencies, and other bodies to inform federal, state and local policy makers of concerns and issues related to education.	1	1	4	2		1
12. The Board provides community leadership on educational issues by creating strong linkages with appropriate organizations, agencies, and other groups to provide for healthy development and high achievement for all students.	1	3	3	1		1
Total Community Leadership						

2400
Appendix C
(continued)

Check the most appropriate rating box on a scale of 5-1 (5 representing the highest rating, 1 the lowest) for each question. A “NA” rating is also provided if you are unable to rate on an item for any reason. A space for comments is also provided on page 11 and 12.

Board Operations	5	4	3	2	1	Not sure
13. The Board ensures the District policy manual is up-to-date and comprehensive.	6	3				
14. The Board conducts meetings that are efficient, effective and focus primarily on student achievement and other district priorities.	6	3				
15. The Board makes decisions based on analysis of relevant research and data.	5	4				
16. The Board adopts a fiscally responsible budget based on the district’s priorities and regularly monitors the fiscal health of the district.	6	2	1			
17. The Board collectively executes its legal responsibilities and ensures the district adheres to all federal and state laws and board policies.	5	4				
18. The Board provides appropriate support (including quality professional development) for programs and initiatives consistent with the vision/mission of the district.	6	2	1			
19. The Board conducts a comprehensive orientation to familiarize new board members with their role on the team.	1	4	2	1		1
20. The Board conducts an effective annual self-evaluation.	6	2				1
21. The Board participates in professional development specifically regarding its roles and responsibilities and on relevant content areas.	1	4	3			1
22. The Board belongs to, actively supports and participates in professional organizations.	1	8				
Total – Board Operations						
Board Ethics	5	4	3	2	1	Not sure
23. The Board establishes a <i>Code of Ethics</i> and conducts business in accordance with the code.	4	4	1			
24. The Board members maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive communications.	7	1				1
25. The Board members honors board decisions even when the vote is not unanimous,	6	3				
26. The Board does not let politics interfere with district business.	6	2	1			
27. The Board deals with both internal and external conflicts openly, honestly and respectfully.	4	3	1	1		
Total Board Ethics						

2400
Appendix C
(continued)

Check the most appropriate rating box on a scale of 5-1 (5 representing the highest rating, 1 the lowest) for each question. A "NA" rating is also provided if you are unable to rate on an item for any reason. A space for comments is also provided on page 11 and 12.

Board Superintendent Team	5	4	3	2	1	Not sure
28. The Board works effectively with the Superintendent as a collaborative leadership team to focus priorities around high achievement for all students in the district.	6	2	1			
29. The Board sets aside time, at least semi-annually, to discuss board/superintendent relations.	6	3				
30. The Board demonstrates support and respect for the Superintendent's role as the chief executive officer of the district.	3	6				
31. The Board provides direction to the Superintendent as a whole, not from individual Board members.	2	5	1			1
32. The Board follows the chain of command as identified by board policy.	2	6	1			
Total – Board Superintendent Team						
Grand Total						
Average						

Please add any additional comments here (comments will be shared with participants):

Vision:

- We have a strong vision. Perhaps we need to review (state) it more frequently at BoE meetings to reinforce its existence with community at large.
- The vision of the Board and Superintendent are aligned and I feel should continue for the upcoming year.
- While our vision is to provide high quality education for every student, many parents seem to feel that this does not include high performing students. I think we can do a better job articulating this.

Community Leadership:

- I am not sure we do much advocacy at the state level. I think we could do more here.
- I would like to see the board have more interactive leadership with the community. Maybe an open house event twice a year where the community may come and meet the board and discuss Beecher.
- In reading through this category, it seems like there might be opportunity for the board to have more engagement, maybe that will be a goal this year.
- I think we have a very active community that we engage in a reactive manner. By this I mean when community members organize and bring issues to us (i.e. math curriculum) we do a good job with engagement, even if they don't always get what they are asking for. However, I do not think we are doing as good of a job proactively engaging families and community members. I think that we need to acknowledge that this means that the concerns of the people who know how to organize and navigate the systems get heard and those who don't or are too busy (holding down multiple jobs, caring for families) are not. I would like to see us engage in some proactive community engagement with open ended questions.
- We had been effectively using the Woodbridge Town News as a means of sharing information with the community. With that publication being only online now, we must think of other ways to get our messages out to the public. This will be especially important with information regarding building needs.

Board Operations:

- I think the Board operates well and I see a significant improvement in dynamics over last year. I appreciate all the work everyone does to make that happen.
- We should always be looking for ways to increase Board efficiencies and improve Board operations.
- We have done a very good job with policy review and updates and meeting legal requirements.

Board Ethics:

- Given everything that has occurred this year, I think we have done amazingly well at this. I also give a lot of credit to the Superintendent and administrative team around how they handled ethical considerations this year.
- One of our strengths is our respect for others' viewpoints and votes.
- I feel so fortunate to be part of, what I see as, a high-functioning team of people all dedicated to creating the best education and environment for our learners. Although we may not always share the same opinion or approach, I believe we value and respect one another, and that is an integral part of what has helped to create such an effective board.

Board/Superintendent Relations:

- This is one of our strongest areas.
- I think this relationship is fairly strong and that we work well together. I really appreciated how we all handled the budget process this year.

General Comments:

- It is a pleasure to serve on the Woodbridge Board of Education. All members are fully committed to ensuring that each and every learner has the support they need to be successful. Board discussions are productive and respectful, and each member brings unique and valuable perspectives to inform our decision making.
- We are a high functioning, collaborative board that challenges one another so that we continue to strive for positive growth and improvement.
- Under the seasoned leadership of Superintendent Tencza, the Board has also been able to take a big step back from providing more hands-on oversight of school operations. As a Board we must always be mindful of not overstepping our role, which can be challenging in a single-school school district. But I believe this is critical if we want our administrators to grow into the types of leaders our students need and deserve.
- Overall I think we are a highly functioning Board and school. Of course there are always areas for improvement but I want to acknowledge that these areas are coming from a strong base that is actively working to improve the education at Beecher Road School.

2023/24 VISION / MISSION & GOALS

- ***Mission*** – *To create and foster a learning community that prepares children to be flexible, lifelong learners, and responsible global citizens.*
- ***Vision*** – *To empower and inspire future leaders who will positively impact our world.*
- ***Goals***
 - Student Growth and Success*** – *To promote and foster high expectations for student growth, active learning, and academic excellence for all learners.*
 - Community*** – *To foster a strong sense of community.*

Voted by the WBOE on August 21, 2023