
GOVERNANCE COMMITMENT & STYLE

Governance Commitment

The Board, supporting the work of staff, the welfare of students and the interests of the community, holds itself accountable to the citizens of the district by ensuring that all action taken is consistent with law and the Board's policies. The Board's work is guided by the principles of Policy Governance as outlined by John Carver ("Remaking Governance," *American School Board Journal*, March 2000, pp 26-30).

The Board's purpose is to assure that Bend-La Pine Schools achieves the results described in its *Ends* policies and operates within the parameters described in its *Executive Limitations* policies.

Governance Style

The Board will govern with emphasis on stated Ends policies, respect diversity in viewpoints, focus on strategic leadership rather than administrative detail, observe clear distinction between the Board and Superintendent roles, make collective rather than individual decisions, and govern proactively rather than reactively.

1. The Board will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Board will use the expertise of individual Board members to enhance the ability of the Board as a body, but will not substitute individual judgments for the Board's collective values. Accordingly, members will:
 - a. Respect decisions of the full board,
 - b. Exercise honesty in all written and interpersonal interaction, never intentionally misleading or misinforming each other, and
 - c. Make every reasonable effort to protect the integrity and promote the positive image of the district and one another.
2. The Board will exercise self-discipline as it applies to attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuity of governance capability.
3. The Board will lead and inspire the district through the careful establishment of policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives. The Board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term benefits for students, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those benefits. Accordingly, members will not:
 - a. Assume responsibility for resolving operational problems or complaints, or
 - b. Give personal direction to any part of the operational organization.
4. Continuous Board development will include orientation of new members in the Board's governance process. All Board members shall participate in ongoing professional development.
5. The Board will monitor its process and performance on an annual basis.
6. The Board, by majority vote, may revise or amend its policies at any time.

Replaces: BD GOV B.1

Originally Adopted: 2/23/2016

Monitoring Method:

Monitoring Frequency: