

Community HSD 117

Board Agreements

August 17, 2017

Mission Statement:

Ignite passion and discovery in every student.

Unity of Purpose:

We affirm the unique role of public education, whereby each community collectively pools its resources for the common good through the education of its students.

- We want to understand our individual jobs and collective responsibilities.

Concerns from the community and staff (“Customer” concerns)

- Board members will listen carefully, remembering they are only hearing one side of the story.
- Board members will then direct that person to the person in the district most appropriate (Chain of Command) who is able to help them resolve their concern.
- Board members handling concerns in this manner will clarify that one board member has no individual authority to fix a problem.
- Board members will call the superintendent if they think this is an issue of concern.

Speaking with one voice

- No individual board member other than the board president, per board policy, has the authority to act or speak on behalf of the board without the consent of the board.
- Board members have an obligation to express their opinions and respect others’ opinions.
- Board members understand the importance of speaking with one clear voice to both the superintendent and the community.
- Board members have the right to disagree with the decision of the board, but will support the board in its decision by abiding by the will of the majority.

Asking questions about items on upcoming meeting agendas

- Whenever possible, board members will contact the superintendent or business manager with any questions on the agenda prior to the board meeting. When emailing the business manager, board members will “cc” the superintendent. Board members will “cc” the board president on all emails to the superintendent and/or the business manager.
- Board members understand that although they are asking the question(s) prior to the meeting, they have a right to ask the question(s) at the meeting as well.

No Surprises

- No one (superintendent or board members) gets surprised at any time – in the meeting or between meetings.
- The truth of no surprises is respect for all participants and the process.

Community HSD 117

Board Agreements

August 17, 2017

Agenda development

- Board members who wish to have an item placed on the agenda will contact the board president and “cc” the superintendent.
- Prior to the meeting, the board president and/or superintendent will confer on the agenda.

Communicating with the media

- The board president is the spokesperson for the board to the media, per board policy.
- The superintendent is the spokesperson for the district.

Use of email

- Board members will be judicious in their use of email and texts, and understand that most emails and texts are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and as such can be made public.
- In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Board members will not “reply to all” to any district email.
- Board members will not email other board members stating their thoughts or opinions.

Visiting campuses

- Board members who plan on visiting a school (that their children do not attend) will call the superintendent prior to their visit.

Closed session meetings

- Board members respect the confidentiality of privileged information and will not divulge conversations, discussions, or deliberations that take place during a closed session meeting.
- Board members understand that to divulge closed session information not only damages the relationship of the team, but has the potential for far reaching consequences which may impact future district operations.

Communicating with staff

- In keeping with Foundational Principle #3, The Board Employs a Superintendent, board members will communicate directly only with the superintendent and/or business manager.
- Board members communicating with other staff in their role as parents will remember the neon sign that reads “BOARD MEMBER” and will not overstep their parent role.

Request for information

- When an individual board member request information, it will be provided to all board members. (“One gets, all get.”)

Community HSD 117
Board Agreements
August 17, 2017

The Board President

The board is a group of seven equals and the board president is the first in the line of equals. Each board member takes full responsibility for board activity and behavior. The task of the board president is the facilitation of the work of the board and its ability to comply with its working agreements and mutual expectations. The board president will also assume some responsibility for facilitating the relationship between the superintendent and the board. The board will elect a member for this important position who is well suited to the responsibilities

Behavioral Expectations

- a. Start with the common belief that everyone has good intentions.
- b. Create a safe environment for the productive exchange of ideas.
- c. Sincerely listen and seek to understand the viewpoints of others.
- d. Solve problems through a collaborative process where all participants support the decision and actively work toward its implementation.