

GETTING OFF TO A *RUNNING* START

Helpful Hints for Newly Elected School Board Members



Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

Welcome to the board!

School boards are responsible for 4 major items of governance:

- **Hire and evaluate the superintendent – your only employee!**
- **Set and approve the district budget**
- **Adopt and review curriculum**
- **Develop and adopt policies to govern**



Be Prepared

- **Read all material BEFORE the meeting**
- **Jot notes to things that you don't understand**
- **Ask questions to Board President or Superintendent**
- **Listen, Listen, Listen**



Be Prepared

- **Learn how the meeting works**
- **Meet with your board President and superintendent prior to first meeting**
- **Study Robert's Rules of Order (suggested www.jurassicparliament.com)**



Know Your Policy



- **Review your policy manual**
- **Ask questions**
- **Get familiar with the process of updating your policies**



You and the Superintendent

- **Work on mutual respect and trust**
- **Have the difficult conversations when they are needed**
- **Work as a team with the rest of the board not as an individual**



Personal Agendas

- **Realize they waste a lot of time**
- **When you are new wait a little while before bringing up your concerns**
- **Be patient**



It's the LAW

- **Conduct legal meetings**
- **Follow the Open Meeting Laws**
- **At the New Member Orientation during the annual conference, extensive time will be spent on this topic**



Listen



- **Be professional**
- **Listen to all issues**
- **Be aware of your district policies**
- **Don't make promises that 'something will be done'**



You CAN and WILL make a difference!

- Take the time to learn about your new job
- Learn about the district
- Be patient
- Enjoy your new role in the community, it will make a difference for kids.



School Boards Should

- **Be directed toward growth in achievement in all children**
- **Engage the public in a planning process that identifies the board's vision & priorities**
- **Provide a safe school environment**
- **Establish policies & resources for effective instruction & student learning**
- **Develop sound operational policies & apply consistently**



Effective Governance Through Board Standards-Alaska Style



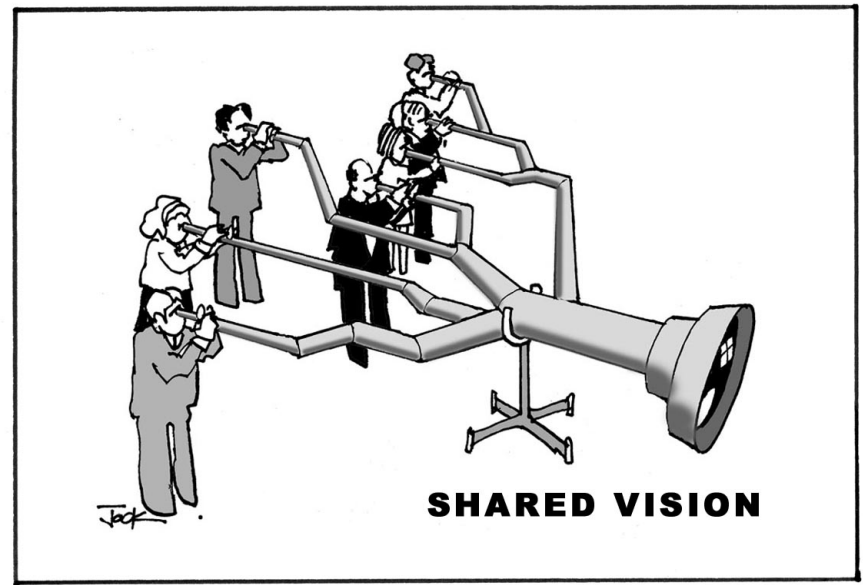
- **Vision**
- **Structure**
- **Accountability**
- **Advocacy**
- **Conduct and Ethics**



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Vision: Unusual capability in discernment or perception; a mental image created by the imagination.

**The board
creates a
shared vision
to enhance
student
achievement**



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***Structure:* The manner in which parts are arranged or combined to form a whole; interrelation of parts in a complex entity.**

The board provides a structure that supports the vision.



***Accountability:* capable of being explained; answerable.**

**The board
measures district
performance toward
accomplishing the
vision and reports the
results to the public**



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Advocacy:
active support, as of a cause



**The board
champions the
vision**



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Conduct & Ethics:

Conduct: The way person acts.

Ethics: A principle of right or good behavior

**The board and its
individual members
conduct district
business in a fair,
respectful, and
responsible
manner**



Board Standards

**A way of life for
Board Members
in Alaska!**



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AASB's SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Policy Development

Policy Online

Superintendent Search Services

Strategic Planning

Salary and Benefit Reports

Community Engagement

School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS)

Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL)

Boardsmanship Academies

Legislative Fly-Ins

School Board Self-Assessment

Customized Workshops

Annual Conference

Leadership Conference

E-News, Commentary, Legislative Bulletin

Online Bookstore

Paperless Meetings - BoardBook

School Improvement Workshops

Charter School Academic Policy Committee (APC) Training & Conference



**Association of Alaska School Boards
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2016 Annual Conference



- Register now at www.aasb.org
- Board Room Boot Camp begins on Thursday, Nov. 10 and continues on Friday.

