Board Policy
Why does it matter to Good Governance?
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Taking the Lead and Board Standards
- Vision
- Structure
- Accountability
- Advocacy
- Conduct & Ethics
https://aasb.org/board-standards/

Taking the Lead Means:
- Securing Resources
- Making Decisions
- Monitoring Effectiveness
- Developing Policies

What is the Connection Between Policy and Governance?
Boards define their role through Board Bylaws and delegate through Policy
Policy makes clear the Board’s Direction and intention
**Board Policy**
Provides the framework for the day-to-day operations of the district.
Keeps decision-making situation-based and not person-based
Helps keep the Board focused on governance and Board business

**Policy Composition**

- **Board Policy (BP) is the WHY**
  - Policy tells us why and what needs to be done
- **Administrative Regulation (AR) is the HOW**
  - Developed by the Superintendent
  - Tells us how the policy is implemented

**Policy Composition**
cf:
Abbreviation for confer/conferatur
Cross reference to related policies

**Legal Reference:**
Laws and statutes which guide the content of the policy

**Boards serve 3 functions**

- Governance
- Executive
- Judicial

**Board Bylaw 9000 - Role of School Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties)**
“The Board may execute any powers delegated by law to it or to the district which it governs, and shall discharge any duty imposed by law upon it or upon the district which it governs.”
- Governance Functions
- Executive Functions
- Judicial Functions

**Governance Functions**
**Policies of The Board:**
Establishes why and what to govern the district
Prescribes bylaws for its own governance – **Board Bylaws (section 9000)**
Executive Functions
Policies of The Board Define:
The Superintendent shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Board

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to carry out Board decisions and to make and carry out any decisions which it delegates.

Executive Functions
Policies of The Board Define:
The Superintendent shall be fully responsible for the proper use of this authority

The Board retains ultimate responsibility for the performance of any powers or duties delegated.

Judicial Functions
Policies of The Board Define:
The ability to hear and resolve grievances, complaints, and criticisms.
Shall serve as a body of appeal for grievances, complaints, and criticisms in accordance with Board policies and negotiated employee agreements.

Lead through Policy
Understand the policy process
Review policy on a regular basis
Link policy to major agenda items
Know where to find your policies
Ask the questions

The Policy Process
• Identify the Need
• Analysis – gather facts, identify options
• Board study, discuss, identify basic elements
• Draft the policy

The Policy Process
• Board review, public input
• Corresponding Administrative Regulations
• Disseminate and Implement
• Review
Questions?

Does your Board think in terms of policy?
Do you regularly schedule policies for review?
Do you look to policy before making decisions?
Do you know what policy has to do with governance?

Where is my policy?

Usually it is now kept online

Example: AASB Policy Online service

BP 5113 ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The School Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in the success a student achieves in school. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged 7 to 16 are obligated to send their children to public school except as allowed by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use any legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 – Exemptions from Attendance)
(cf. 5112.2 – Exclusions from Attendance)
Questions

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