The Role of the Board for Improving Student Learning

1. **Set clear expectations**
   1. Get clear about the greatest student learning needs – the most important content area to improve first
   2. Believe more is possible and communicate high expectations
   3. Establish a clear and narrow focus for improvement – clarify improvement goals and specific targets
   4. Focus on student learning and teaching (Improving teaching as the key strategy for improving learning)
   5. Ensure that your policy manual reflects your expectations
2. **Create conditions for success**
   1. Demonstrate commitment to the improvement focus through board actions and decisions
   2. Support quality professional development
   3. Stay the course
   4. Support & connect with districtwide leadership
   5. Develop and nurture the board/superintendent team leadership
   6. Ensure all parts of the system are aligned around the learning needs of students (curriculum, instruction, assessment; goals, actions, resource allocation; etc.).
   7. Align your district policy manual to support these conditions
3. **Hold the system accountable to the expectations**
   1. Use data extensively
   2. Determine what you will accept as evidence of progress/success
   3. Monitor progress regularly
   4. Apply pressure for accountability
   5. Ensure that policies articulate expectations of the board and district
4. **Build public will**
   1. Create awareness of the need
   2. Create urgency around the moral purpose of improvement
   3. Instill hope that it’s possible to change
   4. Connect with the community
   5. Ensure that the board has policies related to communications and community involvement
5. **Learn together as a board team**
   1. Establish board learning time
   2. Learn together
   3. Talk to each other – extensive board conversations
   4. Develop a willingness and readiness to lead and allow others to lead
   5. Build commitment to the improvement focus through shared information and discussion
   6. Establish board policies that encourage board development
   7. Engage in deliberative policy development – lead through your policies