

# UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES

TITLE: PRINCIPLES FOR  
GOVERNANCE AND  
LEADERSHIP

ADOPTED: February 26, 2008

REVISED: February 9, 2016

## 011. PRINCIPLES FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

*This Board policy supports the Principles for Governance and Leadership adopted by the Board and signed by individual school directors.*

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing *every* student the opportunity to grow and achieve. The actions taken by the board ultimately have both short and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, school directors collectively and individually will . . .

### Advocate Earnestly

- Promote public education as a keystone of democracy
- Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action
- Champion public education by engaging members of local, state and federal legislative bodies

### Lead Responsibly

- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in board meetings
- Work together in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation
- Participate in professional development, training and board retreats
- Collaborate with the Superintendent as the Team of 10

### Govern Effectively

- Adhere to an established set of rules and procedures for board operations
- Develop, adopt, revise and review policy
- Align decisions to policy
- Differentiate between governance and management, delegating management tasks to administration
- Allocate finances and resources
- Ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws

**Plan Thoughtfully**

- Adopt and implement a collaborative comprehensive planning process, including regular reviews
- Set annual goals that are aligned with the comprehensive plan
- Develop a financial plan that anticipates both short and long-term needs
- Formulate a master facilities plan conducive to teaching and learning

**Evaluate Continuously**

- Utilize appropriate data to make informed decisions
- Use effective practices for the evaluation of the Superintendent
- Assess student growth and achievement
- Review effectiveness of the comprehensive plan

**Communicate Clearly**

- Promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff and community
- Encourage input and support for the district from the school community
- Protect confidentiality
- Honor the sanctity of executive session

**Act Ethically**

- Never use the position for improper benefit to self or others
- Act to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest
- Recognize the absence of authority outside of the collective board
- Respect the role, authority and input of the Superintendent
- Balance the responsibility to provide educational programs with being stewards of community resources
- Abide by the majority decision