

**LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 2016/17-15
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, local boards of education are entrusted by their diverse communities to uphold the constitution, protect the public interest in schools and ensure that a high quality education is provided to each student; and

WHEREAS, local boards must govern responsibly and effectively on behalf of the students and communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the California School Boards Association has developed a set of Professional Governance Standards which describe the commonly agreed upon principles of effective governance in three interrelated categories; and

WHEREAS, these Professional Governance Standards reflect consensus among hundreds of school board members, superintendents and other educational leaders throughout the state, and are based on research and the CSBA Effective Governance System; and

WHEREAS, the intent of these Professional Governance Standards is to enhance the public's understanding about the critical responsibilities of local boards and to support these boards in their efforts to govern effectively; and

WHEREAS, as a corollary to the CSBA Professional Governance Standards, a team of California superintendents including the ACSA Superintendents Committee and the CSBA Superintendents Advisory Council has developed a set of Superintendent Governance Standards, to be included as part of the Professional Governance Standards adoption; and

WHEREAS, The Professional Governance Standards will be utilized to help enhance our District's effectiveness and to help our local communities and parents to better understand the structure and function of the School Board and Superintendent; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Lake Tahoe Unified School District hereby adopts the CSBA Professional Governance Standards for its Board of Education and Superintendent.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 13th day of December, 2016 at a regular meeting of the Board of Education, by the following vote:

AYES: Barbara Bannar, Angela Swanson, Troy Matthews, Larry Reilly, Bonnie Turnbull

NOES:

ABSENT:

Attest:


Barbara Bannar, Board President

Lake Tahoe Unified School District

Professional Governance Standards

The Board of Education and the Superintendent believe that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the district. The Board and Superintendent also have major commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, employees, the state of California, laws pertaining to public education, and established policies of the district. To maximize effectiveness and public confidence in district governance, Board members and the Superintendent are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

The Individual Trustee

In California's public education system, a trustee is a person elected or appointed to serve on a school district or county board of education. Individual trustees bring unique skills, values and beliefs to their board. In order to govern effectively, individual trustees must work with each other and the superintendent to ensure that a high quality education is provided to each student. To be effective, an individual trustee:

1. Keeps learning and achievement for *all* students as the primary focus.
2. Values, supports and advocates for public education.
3. Recognizes and respects differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community.
4. Acts with dignity, and understands the implications of demeanor and behavior.
5. Keeps confidential matters confidential
6. Participates in professional development and commits the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader.
7. Understands the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrains from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff.
8. Understands that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals.

The Board

School districts and county offices of education are governed by boards, not by individual trustees. While understanding their separate roles, the board and superintendent work together as a "governance team." This team assumes collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture in order to govern effectively. To operate effectively, the Board must have a unity of purpose and:

1. Keep the district focused on learning and achievement for all students.
2. Communicate a common vision.

3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity.
4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect.
5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures.
6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance.
7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness.
8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations.

The Board's Jobs

The primary responsibilities of the board are to set a direction for the district, provide a structure by establishing policies, ensure accountability and provide community leadership on behalf of the district and public education. To fulfill these responsibilities, there are a number of specific jobs that effective boards must carry out.

Effective boards:

1. Involve the community, parents, students and staff in developing a common vision for the district focused on learning and achievement and responsive to the needs of all students.
2. Adopt, evaluate and update policies consistent with the law and the district's vision and goals.
3. Maintain accountability for student learning by adopting the district curriculum and monitoring student progress.
4. Hire and support the superintendent so that the vision, goals and policies of the district can be implemented.
5. Conduct regular and timely evaluations of the superintendent based on the vision, goals and performance of the district, and ensure that the superintendent holds district personnel accountable.
6. Adopt a fiscally responsible budget based on the district's vision and goals, and regularly monitor the fiscal health of the district.
7. Ensure that a safe and appropriate educational environment is provided to all students.
8. Establish a framework for the district's collective bargaining process and adopt responsible agreements.
9. Provide community leadership on educational issues and advocate on behalf of students and public education at the local, state and federal levels.

The Superintendent

As a corollary to the CSBA Professional Governance Standards, a team of California superintendents including the ACSA Superintendents Committee and the CSBA Superintendents Advisory Council has developed a set of Superintendent Governance Standards. The Superintendent:

1. Promotes the success of all students and supports the efforts of the Board of Trustees to keep the district focused on learning and achievement.

2. Values, advocates and supports public education and all stake holders.
3. Recognizes and respects the differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community — and ensures that the diverse range of views inform board decisions.
4. Acts with dignity, treats everyone with civility and respect, and understands the implications of demeanor and behavior.
5. Serves as a model for the value of lifelong learning and supports the Board’s continuous professional development.
6. Works with the Board as a “governance team” and assures collective responsibility for building a unity of purpose, communicating a common vision and creating a positive organizational culture.
7. Recognizes that the board/superintendent governance relationship is supported by the management team in each district.
8. Understands the distinctions between board and staff roles, and respects the role of the Board as the representative of the community.
9. Understands that authority rests with the Board as a whole; provides guidance to the Board to assist in decision-making; and provides leadership based on the direction of the Board as a whole.
10. Communicates openly with trust and integrity including providing all members of the Board with equal access to information, and recognizing the importance of both responsive and anticipatory communications.
11. Accepts leadership responsibility and accountability for implementing the vision, goals and policies of the district.

Signed this 13th day of December, 2016 at South Lake Tahoe, California.


Dr. James R. Tarwater, Superintendent


Barbara Bannar, Board President


Angela Swanson, Board Member


Troy Matthews, Board Member


Larry Reilly, Board Member


Bonnie Turnbull, Board Member