

**School District U-46**  
**Board Agreements**  
**February 3, 2018**

**1. Unity of Purpose**

We affirm the unique role of public education, whereby each community collectively pools its resources for the common good through the education of its students. Therefore, we seek to uphold and improve public education for our community.

- a. We want to build trust and move the district forward.
- b. We want to become an effective team.
- c. We want to understand our individual jobs and collective responsibilities.
- d. We want to provide the district with a common, focused direction.
- e. We want to create a district culture that supports positive change.
- f. We want to perpetuate a positive district culture that survives in the face of Board member and staff turnover.

*Please refer to policy 2.128, School Board Member Code of Conduct*

**2. Board Member Protocol**

In order to be a more effective team we will:

- a. Debate and discuss the issues respectfully.
- b. Allow each person to finish speaking without interruption.
- c. Raise our hand to signal to the Board President that we wish to speak.
- d. Understand that the Board President will facilitate the discussion by acknowledging people who wish to speak and not allowing interruptions.
- e. Engage in open and honest communication.
- f. Allow the Board president to bring a discussion to closure when he/she feels that there has been appropriate and thorough input from all.
- g. Be willing to move forward in our Board work in the best interests of the district.

**3. No Surprises**

- a. Whenever possible, no one (superintendent or Board members) should be surprised at any time – in the meeting or between meetings.
- b. Questions or concerns should be brought forward as soon as they arise so that others may be apprised and responses (if necessary) can be prepared.
- c. The truth of no surprises is respect for all participants and the process.

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**4. Speaking with one voice**

- a. Board members have an obligation to express their opinions and respect others' right to their opinions.
- b. Board members understand the importance of speaking with one clear voice to both the superintendent and the community.
- c. Board members have the right to disagree with the decision of the Board, but will support the Board in its decision by abiding by the will of the majority.
- d. No individual Board member other than the Board President has the authority to act or speak on behalf of the Board without the consent of the Board.

**5. Affirmation of the governance model**

- a. Board members affirm the role of school Board members in their district as explained in IASB's Six Foundational Principles of Effective Governance. These principles are the cornerstone of their beliefs about the governance process.

**6. Annual Calendar**

- a. During optional Board meeting dates (January and June), the Superintendent and Cabinet will provide the Board updates as part of the Superintendent's evaluation (beyond the District Improvement Plan and inclusive of it).

**7. Placing Items on the Board Agenda**

- a. Whenever possible, Board members will contact the Board President and/or Superintendent to inform them of the intent to suggest a future agenda under "New Business" at the next meeting. (The Superintendent has the discretion to place the agenda topic as a discussion item on the agenda.)
- b. Board members also have a right to suggest future topics for the agenda during a "New Business" portion of a meeting agenda without first contacting the Superintendent and/or Board President.
- c. If there are a majority of Board members interested in pursuing the agenda item, the item will be placed on a future agenda. This will give staff time to research the topic so that Board members have sufficient information for an informed decision.

**8. Orientation of New Board Members**

- a. A Board member should contact the Board President for advice if unsure of the appropriateness or proper time to ask a question, or guidance on policies or procedures.

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**9. Board Member Roles and Responsibilities**

- a. When Board members become aware of events or activities in the District that are in violation of Board policy or that could be harmful to the District, they should bring those concerns to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will investigate and provide feedback to the entire Board on how the issue was resolved.
- b. Any concerns that involve fellow Board members should be brought to the Board President or Vice President for investigation.
- c. If a Board member has a concern with another Board member, that Board member will call the other Board member to discuss the concern.
- d. Board members will carefully consider what they post on social media before they post it, avoiding statements that might be volatile.
- e. Board members will not evaluate staff in public.
- f. Board members with concerns regarding adherence to the board agreements may bring up said concerns at a board meeting and reference the board agreement(s) in question.

**10. Closed Session**

- a. Board members respect the confidentiality of privileged information and will not divulge conversations, discussions, or deliberations that take place during a closed session meeting.
- b. Board members understand that to divulge closed session information not only damages the relationship of the team, but has the potential for far-reaching consequences which may impact future district operations.