

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION RELATIONS

The Board is committed to provide the District with firm and progressive leadership. It is the combined responsibility of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools to meet this leadership objective. The accomplishment of this objective is largely contingent upon the development of a positive working relationship between the Board and the Superintendent. Without this kind of relationship, the continued growth of this District cannot take place.

A successful leadership team results when the Board and Superintendent understand and accept their roles and develop a good working relationship with each other. It is also imperative that consistent guidelines describing the interaction between the Board and the Superintendent be accepted and followed.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the foundation for this relationship.

In working with the Board, the Superintendent of Schools pledges:

1. That he/she will not play favorites with Board members. In discussing agendas and planning for various Board meetings he/she will deal directly with the President of the Board, who is the presiding officer of the Board. Prior to each Board meeting, the Superintendent will confer with the Board President to brief him/her on certain aspects of the meeting for the purpose of providing leadership and avoiding confusion which may arise because of lack of information. The Superintendent administers the schools. The President of the Board administers the Board.
2. That he/she will work in partnership with the Board. Once a vote is cast by the Board on any matter, it will become both the decision of the Board and the Superintendent. The Superintendent will never embarrass the Board by stating, I would have done differently, but the Board has directed me to do this. It is hoped that there will be a healthy exchange of opinion, but when a decision is made, the Superintendent will carry out the decision as his/her own unless it violates a personal or professional standard of conduct.
3. That he/she will keep the Board continuously informed on all phases of the school operation so that when controversial issues arise each Board member will have sufficient background of information to make intelligent decisions.
4. That he/she will make specific recommendations to the Board on all issues. Whether or not these recommendations are accepted is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Board.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

BY-LAWS
0185/page 2 of 2

5. That he/she will never participate in, nor attempt to influence the outcome of, the elections of school Board members.
6. That he/she will recognize that the Board is responsible for establishing school policy.

It is expected that in return, the Board will observe the following practices in dealing with the Superintendent:

1. That the Board will take no action on any issue until it has had the opportunity of receiving a recommendation from the Superintendent of schools or his/her designee.
2. The Board recognizes the need to establish and respect the administrative structure of the District. Therefore, the Board will not intervene or take action on any matter until it passes through proper administrative channels.
3. That criticism or objections to a specific recommendation of the Superintendent will be directed to him/her in individual conferences previous to a public meeting. Before each Board meeting the Superintendent will submit a series of information and action reports to the Board. Each Board member will receive copies of these reports at least three days prior to the meeting. If a Board member has any questions about these reports it is strongly recommended that he/she call the Superintendent about the report. If there are serious and legitimate reservations, the Superintendent may withdraw the report until there has been time for a thorough discussion and clarification of the problem. This will not only provide for a more orderly and efficient meeting, but will obviously save considerable time in conducting Board business.
4. All reports to the Board shall be directed through the Superintendent.
5. That the Board will recognize that the Superintendent of schools is responsible for administering the affairs of the District within the framework of established Board policy.
6. Requests for reports and/or actions will be made as a Board and not as individual members.

*Adopted May 17, 1982
Revised October 6, 2008*