San Mateo County Board of Education Policy

Board of Education BP 9005
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Governance Standards

The County Board believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in every school or program operated by the San Mateo County Office of Education SMCOE. The County Board has commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, SMCOE employees, and the state of California. The County Board is bound by laws pertaining to public education and the established policies of the SMCOE. To maximize County Board effectiveness and public confidence in its governance, County Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

The County Board expects its members to work with each other and with the County Superintendent to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to students in SMCOE schools and programs, and that high-quality services are provided to the community and to the school districts within the jurisdiction of the SMCOE. Each individual County Board member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus.
2. Value, support and advocate for public education.
3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the County Board and among staff, students, parents/guardians and the community.
4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior.
6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader.
7. Understand the distinctions of authority between the County Board and the County Superintendent, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the County Superintendent and staff.
8. Understand that authority rests with the County Board as a whole and not with individual County Board members.
Governance Standards

County Board members also shall assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the County Board shall have a unity of purpose and:

1. Keep focused on student learning and achievement, as well as the role of the SMCOE in providing services to school districts and the community.
2. Work collaboratively with the County Superintendent.
3. Communicate a common vision.
4. Operate openly, with trust and integrity.
5. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect.
6. Govern within the law and County Board-adopted policies and procedures.
7. Take collective responsibility for the County Board’s performance.
8. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness.
9. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform County Board deliberations.

Legal References:
Education Code 1040 Duties and responsibilities; county boards of education
Education Code 1042 County boards; authority
Education Code 33319.5 Implementation of authority of local agencies
Education Code 35160 Authority of county boards
Education Code 35164 Actions by majority vote
Government Code 1090 Financial interest in contract
Government Code 1098 Disclosure of confidential information
Government Code 1125-1129 Incompatible activities
Government Code 54950-54962 The Ralph M. Brown Act
Government Code 87300-87313 Conflict of interest code

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