Policy BBA: SCHOOL BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 08/20/1991

26A UPDATE EXPLANATION

MSBA has updated this policy to improve the language and align it with current research on the role of effective school boards. This language also aligns with the expectations of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the MSIP 6 Standards and Indicators. See https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/msip-6-rule.

The board exercises general supervision over the district as required by law. The board is accountable to the electorate and will work to provide the resources necessary for the district to deliver excellent education services to all district students. The board recognizes the following general responsibilities as essential:

Implement Strategic Planning – The board will set short- and long-term goals for the ongoing improvement of the district's educational system.

Monitor District Performance – The board will evaluate the district's academic progress and program success and work with the superintendent to make adjustments to positively impact future performance.

Employ and Delegate Authority to a Superintendent – The board will employ a superintendent and delegate the authority to make operational decisions to the superintendent.

Evaluate the Superintendent – The board will regularly evaluate the superintendent's performance and provide appropriate feedback to encourage ongoing improvement.

Connect with the Community – The board will ensure that a community engagement plan is developed and implemented that includes opportunities for reliable, two-way communication with the public.

Create and Enforce Policy – The board will adopt and maintain policies on the governance and operation of the district and require district staff, students, parents/guardians, patrons, and board members to follow policy directives.

Enforce Professional Board Conduct – The board will encourage and enforce professional conduct and ethical behavior of its members.

~~The board of education is a representative body elected by the registered voters of the district of DistrictCounty County. It is the purpose and the role of the board of education to exercise general supervision over the schools of the district, and to ensure that the schools are maintained as provided by the state statutes, the rules and procedures of the Missouri State Board of Education and/or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the policies, rules and procedures of the school district. In addition, the board is accountable to the electorate, and shall be responsive to the educational needs and the imposed financial constraints of the district. In conducting its various functions as the legislative and policy-making authority for the district, the board recognizes the following general responsibilities as paramount:~~

- ~~*Legislative and Policy Making* – The board is responsible for the development of policies, rules and procedures to serve as guidelines for the general management and administrative actions of the district. The establishment of the goals and objectives of the school district and the methods of financial support needed to reach those goals and objectives are a part of the policy-making function of the board of education.~~

- ~~*Executive* – The board shall employ a superintendent to serve as the chief executive officer of the district. The board shall delegate, in writing to the superintendent, the executive and administrative duties and responsibilities necessary for carrying out its policies, and shall hold the superintendent accountable.~~

- ~~*Appraisal* – The board is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of its policies and their implementation. The board shall hold the superintendent responsible for furnishing complete information necessary for the board's evaluation of the district's programs.~~

- ~~*Provision of Financial Resources* – The board is responsible for the adoption of the annual budget, which will provide financial basis for personnel, facilities, materials and equipment to enable the district to carry out its educational program.~~

- *Staffing and Appraisal* – The board is responsible for employing the professional and support staff necessary for carrying out the district's instructional program. The board is also responsible for establishing salary schedules, terms of employment, and other personnel policies districtwide, and for the regular evaluation of its staff.

- *Public Relations* – The board is responsible for providing adequate and direct means for keeping the district patrons informed about the schools, and for keeping itself and the school staff informed about the needs and wishes of the public.

- *Educational Planning and Evaluation* – The board is responsible for establishing educational goals which will guide both the board and the staff in working together toward the continued improvement of the educational programs in the district. It is responsible for providing for an ongoing evaluation of the school program as measured through the goals and objectives set forth by the district board of education and by the Missouri State Board of Education.

- *Judicial* – The board is responsible for acting as a court of appeals for the professional and support staff members, students, and the district patrons when issues involve board policies and their fair implementation.

The board of education shall control all aspects of the operations of the district within the limits of the law. However, the board will make its members, the district professional and support staff, and the district patrons aware that the board has authority to take official action only when it is acting as a whole. The board shall be the final authority. No section of the policies, rules and procedures may be construed to limit the statutory powers of the board to exercise its own prudent judgment.

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