ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees has been elected by the community to provide leadership and citizen oversight of the district. The Board shall ensure that the district is responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of the community.

The Board shall work with the Superintendent to fulfill its major responsibilities, which include:

1. Setting the direction for the district through a process that involves the community, parents/guardians, students, and staff and is focused on student learning and achievement

(cf. 0000 - Vision)
(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)
(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

2. Establishing an effective and efficient organizational structure for the district by:

   a. Employing the Superintendent and setting policy for hiring of other personnel

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)
(cf. 2120 - Superintendent Recruitment and Selection)
(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)
(cf. 4000 - Concepts and Roles)
(cf. 4111 - Recruitment and Selection)
(cf. 4211 - Recruitment and Selection)
(cf. 4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

   b. Overseeing the development and adoption of policies

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

   c. Establishing academic expectations and adopting the curriculum and instructional materials

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

   d. Establishing budget priorities and adopting the budget

(cf. 3000 - Concepts and Roles)
(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

ROLE OF THE BOARD (continued)

e. Providing safe, healthful, adequate facilities that support the district's instructional program

(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)
(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)
(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)
(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

f. Setting parameters for negotiations with employee organizations and ratifying collective bargaining agreements

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)
(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)

3. Providing support to the Superintendent and staff as they carry out the Board's direction by:

a. Establishing and adhering to standards of responsible governance

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

b. Making decisions and providing resources that support district priorities and goals

c. Upholding Board policies

d. Being knowledgeable about district programs and efforts in order to serve as effective spokespersons

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)
(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

4. Ensuring accountability to the public for the performance of the district's schools by:

a. Evaluating the Superintendent and setting policy for the evaluation of other personnel

(cf. 2140- Evaluation of the Superintendent)
(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)
(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)
(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/Supervision)

ROLE OF THE BOARD (continued)

b. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies

c. Serving as a judicial (hearing) and appeals body in accordance with law, Board policies, and negotiated agreements

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)
(cf. 4117.3 - Personnel Reduction)
(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)
(cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)
(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)
(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

d. Monitoring student achievement and program effectiveness and requiring program changes as necessary

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)
(cf. 0520.3 - Title I Program Improvement Districts)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

e. Monitoring and adjusting district finances

(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)

f. Monitoring the collective bargaining process

5. Providing community leadership and advocacy on behalf of students, the district's educational program, and public education in order to build support within the local community and at the state and national levels

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)
(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)
(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)
(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)

ROLE OF THE BOARD (continued)

(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 1700 - Relations between Private Industry and the Schools)
(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

The Board is authorized to establish and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. (Education Code 35160)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
5304 Duties of governing board (re school district elections)
12400-12405 Authority to participate in federal programs
17565-17592 Board duties re property maintenance and control
33319.5 Implementation of authority of local agencies
35000 District name
35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
35020-35046 Officers and agents
35100-35351 Governing boards, especially:
35160-35185 Powers and duties
35291 Rules

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Maximizing School Board Governance
Professional Governance Standards, November 2000
School Board Leadership: The Role and Function of California's School Boards, 1996
NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS
The Key Work of School Boards, 2000
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
CSBA Governance Institute: http://www.csba.org/gi
National School Boards Association: http://www.nsba.org

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

The Board of Trustees believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the district. The Board also has 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 Board effectiveness and public confidence in district governance, Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The Board expects its members to work with each other and the Superintendent to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus

2. Value, support and advocate for public education

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community

4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior

5. Keep confidential matters confidential

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

8. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

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

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS (continued)

1. Keep the district focused on learning and achievement for all students.

2. Communicate a common vision.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)
(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)
(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

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.

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance.

7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness.

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
35010 Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance
35160 Board authority to act in any manner not conflicting with law
35164 Actions by majority vote
GOVERNMENT CODE
1090 Financial interest in contract
1098 Disclosure of confidential information
1125-1129 Incompatible activities
54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act
87300-87313 Conflict of interest code

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS
CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000
Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org