Boardsmanship: What is Required?

Session 1
Block 2
Board Leadership Development
What is required of effective Board members?

• Understanding of duties, responsibilities and roles
• Understanding of authority of board
• Training/personal learning
• Attendance at meetings
• Listening, learning, reading, observing
• Maintaining confidentiality
How can you contribute to an effective Board?

Come to understand what research demonstrates differentiates effective Boards from ineffective Boards

- Carefully review the handout and discuss what you believe you can contribute to your Board on each of these eight findings
Understanding of duties, responsibilities and roles vs authority

• A single Board member has no authority
  • A single Board member cannot give a directive or mandate to the superintendent or district staff—you do NOT have that authority

• Duties and responsibilities
  • Become knowledgeable about the district’s vision, mission and strategic plan
  • Understand that you represent all children in the district not just those in your district
  • Attend all meetings
    • Come prepared by familiarizing yourself with the agenda items and the back up information
    • Be respectful of fellow Board members, staff and presenters
    • Learn the protocol for the meeting
      • Robert’s rules of order
      • Protocol for asking questions
      • Protocol for raising issues
Continued

• Learn and understand the roles of members and the superintendent
  • Board President & officers: what are their duties?
  • Who sets the agenda
  • How are directives given to the superintendent
  • How are reports requested
  • Who speaks to the press
  • What is the protocol for visiting schools or attending events
  • What are confidential issues
  • How does the Board interact with legislators
Board Norms & Code of Ethics

• Board norms
  • Developed by the Board through Consensus
  • Dictates how Board will conduct business
  • Sets parameters for professional behavior


• Code of conduct
  • Dictates how the board will conduct themselves
  • Identifies consequences for inappropriate or unprofessional behavior
Thank you !