The Board’s Role in Policy Making: This is the Board’s Primary Duty

- In accordance with NMSA 22-5-4, the Board shall
  - Develop & adopt policies for the district—Policies are based on the district’s vision and cover every aspect of the district’s operation
    - Employment of staff
    - Administration of student services
    - Educational program
    - Instructional materials
    - School facilities
    - Finance
    - Support services
• Evaluate the implementation of policy
  • Can be done through special oversight studies
  • Periodic reports

• The Board gives authority to the superintendent to implement policy

• NMAC 6.29.2.9
  • review district or charter school policies on an annual basis and revise as needed

• The Board delegates administrative and supervisory functions to the local superintendent
Contemporary Issues

• Issues a board may need to address through policy:
  • Bullying
  • Student safety
    • Crisis response
  • LBGT issues
  • Eligibility issues
  • Discipline issues
  • Educational technology
  • Transportation issues
  • Risk management and school insurance
  • Misconduct of a sexual nature
  • Changes in legislation
NMSBA support

• New Mexico School Boards have great resources:
  • http://www.nmsba.org/policy-service/
• NMSBA contracts with Dr. Donn Williams
• NSBA format
• Policy Advisory group
The Board’s Role in the Area of Instruction

• By statute (NM-22-5-4
  • The school board will give prior approval for any educational program in a public school in the school district that is to be conducted, sponsored, carried on or caused to be carried on by a private organization or agency.

• By NMAC 6.29.2.9 (the school Board shall..
  • review, approve and support the district's EPSS and each school site-level EPSS, or the charter school's EPSS
  • delegate administrative and supervisory functions to the local superintendent or charter school administrator;
  • refrain from involvement in delegated administrative functions
  • award high school graduation diplomas to students who have successfully completed graduation requirements
  • ensure the alignment of district or charter school curricula with New Mexico content standards with benchmarks and performance standards
Three Part Curriculum Role

• Adopt a vision and set standards as part of strategic planning
  • Written policies regarding curriculum
  • Curriculum development issues placed on the agenda

• Align financial and human resources
  • Budget supports professional development, curriculum development and evaluation
  • Budget supports instructional materials

• Assessment & Accountability procedures are in place
  • Frequent reports to the Board from the administration
  • Calendar of curriculum related presentations
Board’s Role in Evaluating Curriculum

• Ask for reports on various aspects of the curriculum: new programs, new instructional materials, technology in the classroom

• Become familiar with the various tests/assessments and their purpose
  • Evaluation of curriculum
  • Graduation
  • Meeting state or national standards
  • College admission
Board Members in the Classroom?

• Follow the district protocol
  • Clear your visit with the superintendent
  • Supt will inform the principal
  • You are there to observe, not evaluate
  • If there are concerns, bring them back to the superintendent
  • Ask the superintendent to follow up with you or the entire board
  • Provide support, encouragement, but don’t make promises—remember one board member has no legal authority
Recognition of Schools’ Achievement

• Ideas to consider:
  • Schedule Board meetings at a school site
    • Gives the principal and school community an opportunity to share their successes as well as their needs.
    • Gives the Board a first-hand look at school sites
  • Recognition programs
    • For individual teachers
    • For groups ie. Teachers, nurses, etc.
  • Let’s hear from Master Board members
So you want a new program?

- Stay attuned to the community’s needs, desires, wants
  - Understand that schools can only do so much
  - Every new program requires funding and time
  - Can’t just keep adding to the program
  - What is the district’s main goal
- Does the new program support the district’s vision, mission, strategic plan
- Reminder
  - Board develops policy about instruction, instructional materials and funding
  - The Superintendent is charged with implementing the Board’s policies
Whose job is it?

• As you examine each of these six questions, discuss whether this is a superintendent decision, a Board decision, or a shared decision.
Whose Decision Is It?

Creating Board & Superintendent Agreement

• Good governance requires clarity about roles and relationships.
• Effective leadership requires a working agreement about roles.
• Let’s see if we agree!
Six Ways to Handle a Decision

1. Administration: Routine decision.
2. Administration: Inform the board after decision is made.
3. Administration: But, get board's thinking before decision is made.
4. School Board: School Board respects Administration recommendation, “makes it official.”
5. School Board: Board and Superintendent team strive for consensus.
6. School Board: (May expect recommendation from Superintendent).
Question A: Close school at noon because of heavy snowfall?

1. **Administration:** Routine decision.

2. **Administration:** Inform the Board after decision is made.

3. **Administration:** Get Board's thinking before decision is made.

4. **School Board:** respect judgment of Superintendent.

5. **School Board & Superintendent team.**

6. **School Board:** may expect recommendation from superintendent.
Question D: Hire a new 3rd grade teacher.

1. Administration: Routine decision.
2. Administration: Inform the Board after decision is made.
3. Administration: Get Board's thinking before decision is made.
5. School Board & Superintendent team.
6. School Board: may expect recommendation from superintendent.
Question E: Hire a new principal.

1. **Administration**: Routine decision.
2. **Administration**: Inform the Board after decision is made.
3. **Administration**: Get Board's thinking before decision is made.
4. **School Board**: respect judgment of Superintendent.
5. **School Board & Superintendent team**.
6. **School Board**: may expect recommendation from superintendent.
Question F: Fire popular longtime football coach for poor job performance.

1. **Administration**: Routine decision.

2. **Administration**: Inform the Board after decision is made.

3. **Administration**: Get Board's thinking before decision is made.

4. **School Board**: respect judgment of Superintendent.

5. **School Board & Superintendent team**.

6. **School Board**: may expect recommendation from superintendent.
Question G: Establish priorities, focus and goals for the district for the next school year.

1. **Administration**: Routine decision.

2. **Administration**: Inform the Board after decision is made.

3. **Administration**: Get Board's thinking before decision is made.

4. **School Board**: respect judgment of Superintendent.

5. **School Board & Superintendent team**.

6. **School Board**: may expect recommendation from superintendent.
• Thank you!