



# CES and NMSBA Present



## School Policies & Instruction

Session 1

Block 4

Board Leadership Development

# 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



# The Board's Role in Policy Making (continued)

- 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!

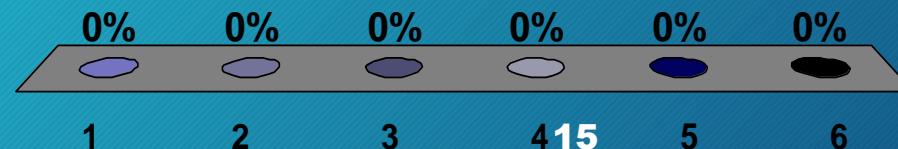
# Six Ways to Handle a Decision

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).



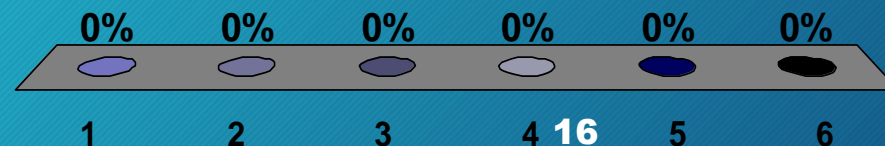
# Question A: Close school at noon because of heavy snowfall?

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.

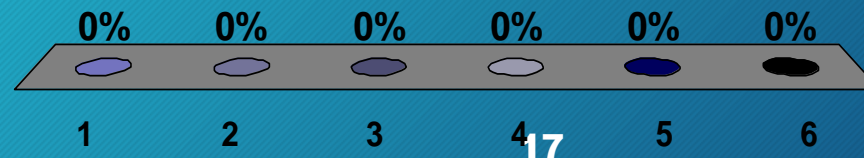
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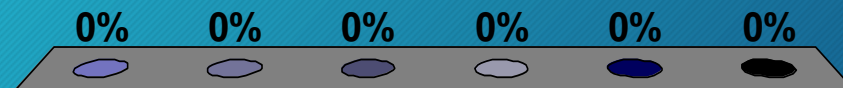
# Question E: Hire a new principal.

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# Question F: Fire popular longtime football coach for poor job performance.

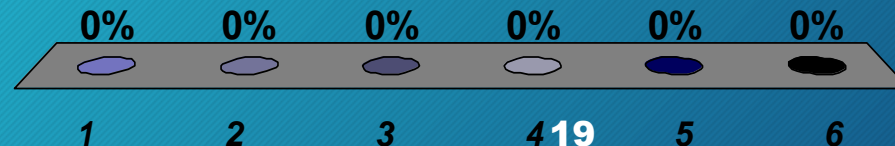
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# Question G: Establish priorities, focus and goals for the district for the next school year.

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• *Thank you!*