

GOVERNANCE

Policy 201

Board Operations

The Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) will relinquish none of its statutory authority, since it believes that, as much as possible, decision-making over children's learning should be in the hands of local citizens, through their elected school board. The Board supports the preservation of the authority and responsibilities of locally elected boards as separate corporate bodies, distinct from municipal councils or regional districts.

Policy-making is the fundamental process by which the Board will exercise its legitimate authority and responsibility. Through policy, and the strategic planning process, the Board will establish goals and give direction to the local school system.

The Board of Education will operate as an open, democratic corporate body that models respect for individuals and strengthens relationships within the education community. The Board is committed to discharging its duties in a fair, efficient, and effective manner and will conduct itself within an organized framework. The main business of the Board will be through regularly scheduled meetings of all trustees where they will hear delegations, consider reports, and decide by democratic vote on bylaws or motions presented for their consideration.

Because the Board believes it has a fundamental obligation to preserve and enhance the public trust in public education, and because it believes the public and, in particular its education partners, must be able to share their perspectives, meetings will be held in public as much as possible and an opportunity will be given at each meeting to hear the public.

However, there are times when the Board believes the public interest is best served by private discussions of specific issues in closed "in-camera" sessions. To protect individual privacy and the Board's own position, in-camera meetings may be conducted to discuss issues such as individual student or employee matters, legal concerns, or negotiating collective agreements, contracts, or the sale or purchase of land. Trustees will not disclose to the public or employees the proceedings of an in-camera session unless a resolution has been passed at the closed meeting to allow such disclosure.

It is the intent of the Board that both trustees and stakeholders be allowed time and opportunity to become informed and given adequate notice to prepare and present their views on impending items. The Board may establish committees and hold ad hoc meetings to provide opportunities for trustees and interested parties to meet to discuss issues in a more open, prolonged, and informal manner than is normally allowed at a regular Board meeting. Such meetings should enable participants to fully explore all aspects of a topic, to determine the need for further research, and to propose recommendations. Committees and meetings will not be legally constituted as Board Meetings in that the voting trustee complement will always be less than a majority and committee reports and recommendations will be reported to the full Board for decision.