Policy 4.5: Agenda Planning

To accomplish its job description with a governance style consistent with board policies, the board will follow an annual agenda that:

1. completes a review of Ends policies annually
2. continually improves board performance through board education and enriched input and deliberation and provides a mechanism to record and save opportunities for improvements.
3. allows the board to meet its legal obligations

Policy 4.5.1
The board shall maintain control of its own agenda by developing each year an annual agenda. The Chair, in consultation with other board members and the superintendent, will create an annual agenda and present it to the board for review no later than the last scheduled meeting of the fiscal year. The annual agenda will be approved at the board meeting in September.

The annual agenda shall include but is not limited to:

1. Consultations with selected groups of owners, or other methods of gaining owner input in relation to the Ends.
2. Governance education and education related to Ends determination (presentations by futurists, demographers, advocacy groups, staff, and so on).
3. Annual Review of the Ends Policies based on the above, prior to the beginning of the budgeting cycle.
4. Regular review of the content of Executive Limitations, Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation policies.
5. Self-evaluation of the board’s own compliance with its Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation policies.
6. Documentation of monitoring compliance by the superintendent with Executive Limitations and Ends policies. Monitoring reports will be provided and read in advance of the board meeting and discussed only if reports show policy violations, or if it is indicated that there is insufficient information for the board to make a determination regarding compliance, or if the policy criteria are to be debated.
7. Allocation of time for education about the process of governance.

Interpretation:
We interpret this to mean that the Board will develop its own agenda, not delegate this task to the superintendent, and that the annual agenda will guide Board work for the year. We interpret the timing to be such that the Annual Agenda will be reviewed in June, the last meeting of the fiscal year, and approved
at the board meeting in September. We also interpret the specific items to be addressed by the Board are related to consulting with ownership on ENDS, educating the Board on ENDS determination, measuring compliance of the superintendent to Executive Limitations and Governance Process/Board-Management Delegation at least annually. We also understand that discussion on monitoring reports will be limited to policy violations, areas of identified insufficient information and the request for clarification, and whether the policy criteria are appropriate. We must plan in time for our own Board education on the process of governance.

Evidence:
Evidence based on current Annual Agenda as posted on the google drive as well as the policy interpretations, both superintendent as well as board interpretations, also posted on the school website. Any debate on these interpretations is focused on the outcomes against the policy as written and if, as has happened several times, there is discussion about the policy itself the policy is returned to a latter meeting and the interpretation is judged solely against the policy at the time of review. Each year, at the annual retreat, we discuss the board training for the year and fit that education session into the annual agenda where appropriate.

Conclusion: We report compliance.

Policy 4.5.2

Based on the outline of the annual agenda, the board delegates to the chair the authority to fill in the details of the meeting content. Potential agenda items shall be carefully screened to ensure that they relate to the board’s job description. Screening questions shall include:

1. Does this issue belong to the board or the superintendent?
2. What category of policy does the issue relate to?
3. What has the board already said in this category and how is this issue related?

Interpretation:
We interpret this to mean that the Board delegates to the Chair the work item of developing the annual agenda (requires Board acceptance for content) and following this agenda as each meeting’s content is developed. Issues brought forward in the agenda must be screened to ensure the Board is handling ENDS items, not Means issues. The agendas are formatted such that each section that has active content for each meeting is identified by its section in our general policies.

Evidence:
Evidence based on a review of the agendas over the past year showing adherence to this section.

Conclusion: We report compliance.

Policy 4.5.3

Throughout the year, the board will attend to consent agenda items as expeditiously as possible. When an item is brought to the board via the consent agenda, provided that compliance with all of the criteria in
Executive Limitations has been demonstrated, the board will not discuss the item prior to approval. Only the majority of the board can remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion.

Interpretation:
We interpret this to mean that agenda items brought forward in the Consent agenda will be reviewed to ensure the item belongs in the Consent. Once an item is determined to be a consent item, in compliance with all criteria in Executive Limitations, it will not be discussed or reviewed before approval. If a Consent Agenda item is determined to not be a Consent item it requires a majority of the Board to vote to remove it for further discussion/approval.

Evidence:
Evidence based on review of videotaped meetings on RETN showing Consent section is dispatched in a timely fashion without discussion of specific issues contained therein. Occasionally the Board has commented on items in the report to thank the staff for the hard work obtaining Grants, statewide recognition, or put in place creative programs to aid our students. This is not debated or discussed rather it is simply commented.

Conclusion: We report compliance.