

Policy 4.1 Governing Style

The Winooski School District (WSD) Board presents our monitoring report with respect to the provisions of its **Policy 4.1**. The board will govern lawfully, observing the principles of the **Policy Governance model**, with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of board and superintendent roles, (e) collective rather than individual decisions, (f) future rather than past or present, and (g) proactively rather than reactive. Accordingly:



Board President

3/11/20

Date

Policy 4.1.1:

The board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governing. The board will be the initiator of policy, not merely a reactor to staff initiatives. The board will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute for the judgment of the board, although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the board as a body.

Interpretation:

We interpret this to mean that the Board will govern as a group utilizing the individual strengths of Board members and those in the community to best guide our collective decisions. Further, we interpret this to mean that we will determine policy based on needs as guided by our Ends statements.

Evidence:

Data based on input from Superintendent and as seen in our actions at our Monthly Board meetings.

Conclusion:

We report compliance.

Policy 4.1.2:

The board will direct, control, and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the board's values and perspectives. The board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the staff organization (Ends), not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.

- a) Board values will be drawn from the diverse values of the community informed by expert sources both internal and external to the organization

Interpretation:

We interpret this to mean that we will govern using a set of policies that encompass our beliefs and needs as a community and that the culmination of these policies is an organization that delivers the intended/desired outcomes.

Evidence:

Data based on input from Superintendent and as witnessed by the policies as set forth by the Board in the Policy Governance section of our policies..

Conclusion:

We report compliance.

Policy 4.1.3:

The board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuance of governance capability. Although the board can change its Governance Process policies at any time, it will scrupulously observe those currently in force.

Interpretation:

We interpret this to mean that we as a Board will make it a model to govern with excellence in all matters including attendance, preparation, policy making principles, respect for roles and ensuring the continuance of governance. We also interpret this to mean that we will govern using the policies that are currently in force at all times.

Evidence:

Attendance at meetings is much improved from the last review of this policy. Timely notification where members will be unavailable has been given to the board. Preparation for meetings has also improved since the last review though this is always an area we need to remain diligent in as witnessed by active discussion on the various agenda topics without members reading during discussion. We have stuck strictly to our model when discussing policy and possible changes to and policy sections by questioning whether changes pertain to Ends or Means first

Conclusion:

We report compliance

Policy 4.1.4:

Continual board development will include orientation of new board members in the board's Governance Process and periodic board discussion of process improvement.

Interpretation:

We interpret this to mean that we will have processes in place to orient/educate new Board members on the protocols of Policy Governance as well as plan continual Board development moving forward

Evidence:

New Board members are encouraged to take the Vermont School Board Association (VSBA) training in Policy Governance 101 done just after elections in March. We have a budget item for Board education and during our annual retreat we devote an agenda item to discuss board training and education needs for the year.

Conclusion:

We report compliance.

Policy 4.1.5

The board will allow no officer, individual, or committee of the board to hinder or serve as an excuse for not fulfilling group obligations

Interpretation:

We interpret this to mean that we as a Board will govern according to the Policy Governance model and not allow individuals or committees to fulfill group obligations

Evidence:

Decisions are made at our regularly or specially warned meetings where final decisions are made by the full quorum of the Board.

Conclusion:

We report compliance.

Policy 4.1.6:

The board will monitor and discuss the board's process and performance on a regular basis. Self-monitoring will include comparison of board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation categories.

Interpretation:

We interpret this to mean that we will follow the guidelines prescribed by the Governance Processes and Board-Management Delegation sections of the Policy Governance model. We will conduct our business using this model to guide our work.

Evidence:

We are working on the annual reviews of our interpretations and analysis of our coherence to each policy guideline. These interpretations can be found on the district website for reference. We are doing a very good job adhering to the governance items for keeping our role focused on the ENDS and do not endeavor into the means.

Conclusion:

We report partial compliance.