

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD ITEM
BOE Meeting: November 19, 2024

Subject: GP 1.1, The Board's Governing Style

Recommended Action: The Board of Education may submit comments, ask for clarification, and request additional information to assist the Board in the compliance ruling for this policy, which will occur November 19, 2024, as recommended by Director Tim Moore, Douglas County School District Board of Education.

Pertaining to Governance Policy: Governance Process 1.1, The Board's Governing Style. Complete GP 1.1 policy language is attached to this Board item as well.

Background: The Douglas County School Board conducts a routine and systematic process of self-evaluation where it regularly reviews its Board-Superintendent Linkage and Board Process policies. The review is meant to be positive, constructive, and educational.

Rationale/Objective: The objective of monitoring Governance Process 1.1, The Board's Governing Style is three-fold:

1. To ensure that Douglas County School District Board of Education is in compliance with this policy;
2. To hold itself accountable to the public for its performance; and,
3. To review policy wording.

Cost/Benefit Analysis: NA

Alternatives: The Board of Education may:

1. Accept the report as is and adopt a resolution at the December 10, 2024, meeting, indicating that the Board is in compliance;
2. Not accept the report and ask that changes to the report be made and brought back for further discussion; or,
3. Accept the report as is and adopt a resolution at the December 10, 2024, meeting stating that the Board is out of compliance.

Submitted by: Director Tim Moore, DCSD Board of Education

Date: November 19, 2024

GP 1.1 The Board's Governing Style

The Board will govern lawfully with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, (b) diversity in viewpoints and sufficient understanding of issues, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles, (e) collective rather than individual decisions, (f) future rather than past or present, and (g) pro-activity rather than reactivity. Accordingly:

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 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, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those Ends.
- 1.1.3 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 observe them scrupulously while in force.
 - 1.1.3.1 Board members are expected to attend regular and special meetings of the Board.
 - 1.1.3.2 Board members who fail to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board will be deemed to have vacated their Board membership, unless the Board determines otherwise in accordance with applicable law.
 - 1.1.3.3 The Board will fill any vacated position on the Board as permitted by law.
 - 1.1.3.4 A Board member participating in a meeting by telephone or other means of communications technology by which all members participating may hear each other during a meeting is deemed to be present and in attendance at the meeting, whether or not the member is allowed to vote as otherwise provided in or limited by Board policies.

- 1.1.4 Continual Board development will include orientation of new Board members in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of process improvement.
- 1.1.5 The Board will allow no officer, individual, or committee of the Board to hinder or excuse the fulfillment of its commitments.
- 1.1.6 The Board will monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance following a self-evaluation schedule. This schedule shall be approved by the Board at the last regular scheduled meeting of the school year. Self- monitoring will include at least an annual comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Superintendent Linkage categories.
- 1.1.7 All governing policies of the Board are contained in this document, and they remain in effect, amended or deleted by Board action.

All governing policies of the Board are contained in this document, and they remain in effect, unless amended or deleted by Board action.

Date Adopted/Last Revised: 09.24.24

Date Reviewed: 11.19.24

Memorandum

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Director Tim Moore, DCSD Board of Education

DATE: November 19, 2024

SUBJECT: Monitoring Report for Governance Process 1.1, The Board's Governing Style

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this information is accurate as of November 19, 2024.

Period Monitored: March 29, 2024, to November 19, 2024

Monitoring Report Status: Partially compliant

Evidence: All evidence is available through the Board Secretary. Evidence used in monitoring this policy is as follows:

- [Board meeting agendas and minutes.](#)
- [BOE Annual Meeting Schedule. Approved April 23, 2024.](#)
- [Board Governance Policy Agenda Calendar. Approved September 24, 2024.](#)
- [Board of Director Handbook, revised. Approved September 24, 2024.](#)
- [Policy Governance Process Book, revised. Approved September 24, 2024.](#)

In addition, the Board has the opportunity to all attend the [CASB \(Colorado Association of School Boards\) training convention in December 2024.](#) While there were no Board member vacancies during this reporting period, all new board directors attended an all-day training with the district after being sworn in. There have been no issues with unexcused absences. All Board members participated in the recent 2024 revisions to the Board Policy Governance Process Book.

The reason for partial compliance is related to section 1.1.6: *“The Board will monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance following a self-evaluation schedule. This schedule shall be approved by the Board at the last regular scheduled meeting of the school year. Self-monitoring will include at least an annual comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Superintendent Linkage categories.”*

The board started self-monitoring in early 2024 (specific review of this policy GP 1.1 began in January 2024) and therefore cannot complete a full “annual comparison” until January 2025.

Conclusion: To the best of my knowledge this information is accurate as of November 19, 2024. This report should reflect that the Board is “partially compliant” with Governance Process 1.1, The Board's Governing Style.