

**DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD ITEM**  
**BOE Meeting: April 2, 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 April 23, 2024 as recommended by Director Christy Williams, 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 is beginning 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:

- a) Accept the report as is and adopt a resolution at the April 23, 2024 meeting, indicating that the Board is in compliance;
- b) Not accept the report and ask that changes to the report be made and brought back for further discussion; or,
- c) Accept the report as is and adopt a resolution at the April 23, 2024 meeting stating that the Board is out of compliance.

**Submitted by:** Director Christy Williams, DCSD Board of Education

**Date:** April 2, 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 at each meeting. 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.

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: 12.13.22

Date Reviewed: 04.02.24

## Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Director Christy Williams, DCSD Board of Education  
**DATE:** March 29, 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 March 29, 2024.

**Period Monitored:** January 1, 2023 through March 29, 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](#)
- [Board Annual Agenda Calendar](#) – approved at the May 9, 2023 meeting
- [Resolution for Board Vacancy in June 2023](#)
- [Resolution for Board Vacancy in December 2023](#)

In addition, the board has had the opportunity to attend the CASB convention in December 2023. There were also two Policy Governance trainings with Matt Cook (July 2023, December 2023). All new board directors attended an all-day training with the district after being sworn in.

There have been no issues with unexcused absences.

The reason for being partially compliant is related to 1.1.6:

“The Board will monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance at each meeting. 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 has just started self-monitoring in 2024 and will be able to do annual comparisons beginning in 2024.

**Conclusion:** To the best of my knowledge this information is accurate as of March 29, 2024. This report should reflect that the Board is partially compliant with Governance Process 1.1, The Board's Governing Style.