



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governance | Accountability | Achievement | Oversight | Career & College Readiness

Title:	<u>Bylaws Review</u>	
As Related To:	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal One: Effective and accountable P-13 governance. <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Two: Comprehensive statewide K-12 accountability. <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Three: Closing achievement gap.	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal Four: Strategic oversight of the K-12 system. <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Five: Career and college readiness for all students. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Relevant To Board Roles:	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> System Oversight <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and Facilitating
Policy Considerations / Key Questions:	None	
Possible Board Action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Materials Included in Packet:	<input type="checkbox"/> Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs / Graphics <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Materials <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
Synopsis:	<p>The State Board of Education is required to review its bylaws every two years. Members will consider amendments to bylaw sections concerning: board officer definitions, officer elections, Executive Committee meeting agenda and minutes, and the Executive Director, as well as minor technical and wording refinements.</p>	

Bylaws

of the

Washington State Board of Education

Adopted January 15, 2009

Bylaws Index

ARTICLE I Name

ARTICLE II Purpose

ARTICLE III Membership and Responsibilities

- Section 1. Board composition
- Section 2. Meeting attendance and preparation,
- Section 3. External communication
- Section 4. Board responsibilities

ARTICLE IV Officers

- Section 1. Designation
- Section 2. Term of officers
- Section 3. Officer elections
- Section 4. Duties

ARTICLE V Meetings

- Section 1. Regular meetings
- Section 2. Agenda preparation
- Section 3. Board action
- Section 4. Consent agenda
- Section 5. Parliamentary Authority

ARTICLE VI Executive Committee

- Section 1. Executive committee

ARTICLE VII Committees

- Section 1. Designation

ARTICLE VIII Executive Director

- Section 1. Appointment
- Section 2. Duties
- Section 3. Annual evaluation
- Section 4. Compensation and termination of the executive director

ARTICLE IX Amending Bylaws

- Section 1. Amending bylaws
- Section 2. Suspending bylaws

ARTICLE I
Name

The name of this agency shall be the Washington State Board of Education.

ARTICLE II
Purpose

The purpose of the Washington State Board of Education is to provide advocacy and strategic oversight of public education; implement a standards-based accountability system to improve student academic achievement; provide leadership in the creation of a system that personalizes education for each student and respects diverse cultures, abilities, and learning styles; and promote achievement of the Basic Education Act goals of RCW 28A.150.210.

ARTICLE III
Membership and Responsibilities

Section 1. Board composition. The membership of the Washington State Board of Education is established by the Legislature and outlined in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 28A.305.011).

Section 2. Meeting attendance and preparation. Members are expected to consistently attend and prepare for board and committee meetings, of which they are members, in order to be effective and active participants. Members are further expected to stay current in their knowledge and understanding of the board's projects and policymaking.

Section 3. External communication. Members of the Board should support board decisions and policies when providing information to the public. This does not preclude board members from expressing their personal views. The executive director or a board designee will be the spokesperson for the board with the media.

Section 4. Board responsibilities. The board may meet in order to review any concerns presented to the chair or executive committee about a board member's inability to perform as a member or for neglect of duty.

ARTICLE IV
Officers

Section 1. Designation. The officers of the board shall be the chair the vice chair, immediate past chair, and two members at-large.

Section 2. Term of officers. (1) The chair shall serve a term of two years and may serve for no more than two consecutive two -year terms.

(2) The vice chair shall serve a term of two years and may serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

(3) The members at-large shall serve a term of one-year and may serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms.

(4) The immediate past chair shall serve a term of one-year.

Section 3. Officer elections. (1) **Two-year positions.** (a) The chair and vice chair shall be elected biennially by the board at the planning meeting of the board.

(b) Each officer under subsection (1)(a) shall take office at the end of the meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor has been duly elected. No more than two consecutive two-year terms may be served by a Board member as chair, or vice chair.

(2) **One-year position.** (a) The members at-large office positions shall be elected annually by the Board at the planning meeting of the board.

(b) The members of the board elected as members at-large shall take office at the end of the meeting and shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor has been duly elected. No more than two consecutive one-year terms may be served by a board member as a member at-large.

(3) **Vacancies.** Upon a vacancy in any officer position, the position shall be filled by election not later than the date of the second ensuing regularly scheduled board meeting. The member elected to fill the vacant officer position shall begin service on the executive committee at the end of the meeting at which she or he was elected and complete the term of office associated with the position.

Section 4. Duties. (1) **Chair.** The chair shall preside at the meetings of the board, serve as chair of the executive committee, make committee appointments, be the official voice for the board in matters pertaining to or concerning the board, its programs and/or responsibilities, and otherwise be responsible for the conduct of the business of the board.

(2) **Vice Chair.** The vice chair shall preside at board meetings in the absence of the chair, sit on the executive committee, and assist the chair as may be requested by the chair. When the chair is not available, the vice chair shall be the official voice for the board in all matters pertaining to or concerning the board, its programs and/or responsibilities.

(3) **Immediate Past Chair.** The immediate past chair shall carry out duties as requested by the chair and sit on the executive committee. If the immediate past chair is not available to serve, a member of the board will be elected in her/his place.

(4) **Members At-Large.** The members at-large shall carry out duties as requested by the chair and sit on the executive committee.

ARTICLE V Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings. (1) The board shall hold an annual planning meeting and such other regular and special meetings at a time and place within the state as the board shall determine.

(2) The board shall hold a minimum of four meetings yearly, including the annual planning meeting.

(3) A board meeting may be conducted by conference telephone call or by use of video/telecommunication conferencing. Such meetings shall be conducted in a manner that all members participating can hear each other at the same time and that complies with the Open Public Meetings Act. Procedures shall be developed and adopted in the BOARD PROCEDURES MANUAL to specify how recognition is to be sought and the floor obtained during such meetings.

Section 2. Agenda preparation. (1) The agenda shall be prepared by the executive committee in consultation with the executive director and other staff, as necessary.

(2) Members of the board may submit proposed agenda items to the board chair or the executive director.

(3) In consultation with the executive committee, the board chair or executive director will give final approval of all items and changes that will appear on the agenda at a board meeting.

(4) The full agenda, with supporting materials, shall be delivered to the members of the board at least one week in advance of the board meeting, in order that members may have ample opportunity for study of agenda items listed for action.

(5) Hearings to receive information and opinions, other than those subject to the provisions of Chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adoption of rules and regulations or as otherwise provided by law, shall be scheduled when necessary on the agenda prior to final consideration for action by the board.

Section 3. Board action. (1) All matters within the powers and duties of the board as defined by law shall be acted upon by the board in a properly called regular or special meeting.

(2) A quorum of eight (8) voting members must be present to conduct the business of the board.

(3)(a) Subject to the presence of a quorum, the minimum number of favorable votes necessary to take official board action is a majority of the members present. There shall be no proxy voting.

(b) In order to vote at a meeting conducted by telephone or videotelecommunications conference call, members must be present for the discussion of the issue upon which action will be taken by vote.

(4) The manner in which votes will be conducted to take official board action shall be determined by the board chair, unless a roll call is requested and sustained by one quarter of the voting members who are present.

(5) All regular and special meetings of the full board shall be held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 42.30 RCW).

Section 4. Consent agenda. (1) Non-controversial matters and waiver requests meeting established guidelines may be presented to the board on a consent agenda.

(2) Items may be removed from the consent agenda upon the request of an individual board member.

(3) Items removed from the consent agenda shall be referred to a standing committee or shall be considered by the full board at the direction of the chair.

Section 5. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the State Board of Education in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, state law and any special rules of order the State Board of Education may adopt.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Executive committee. (1) (a) The executive committee shall consist of the chair, the vice chair, the immediate past chair, and two members at-large.

(b) The executive committee shall be responsible for the management of affairs that are delegated to it as a result of Board direction, consensus or motion, including transacting necessary business in the intervals between board meetings, inclusive of preparing agendas for board meetings.

(c) The executive committee shall be responsible for oversight of the budget.

(2) When there is a vacancy of an officer position, the vacant position shall be filled pursuant to the election process in the Board Procedures Manual.

(3) The board chair shall serve as the chair of the executive committee.

(4) The executive committee shall meet at least monthly.

(5) The executive committee shall assure that the board annually conducts a board review and evaluation.

ARTICLE VII Committees

Section 1. Designation. (1) Responsibilities of the board may be referred to committee for deeper discussion, reflection and making recommendations to the whole board. Rule changes should be discussed in committee before recommended language is referred to the board for discussion and possible vote.

(2) The board chair shall appoint at least two board members to each committee to conduct the business of the board.

(3) Appointments of non-state board members to a state board committee shall be made by the board chair in consultation with the committee chair(s) and the executive director, taking into consideration nominees submitted by board members, and identified groups or organizations.

(4) Board members of committees of the board shall determine which board member shall chair the committee.

(5) Each committee will be responsible for recommending to the budget process costs associated with responsibilities of the committee.

ARTICLE VIII Executive Director

Section 1. Appointment. The board may appoint an executive director.

Section 2. Duties. (a) The executive director shall perform such duties as may be determined by the board and shall serve as secretary and non-voting member of the board. The executive director shall house records of the board's proceedings in the board's office and the records shall be available upon request. The executive director is responsible for the performance and operations of the office and for staff support of board member duties.

(b) The board shall establish or modify a job description for the executive director, as needed.

Section 3. Annual evaluation. (a) The board shall establish or modify the evaluation procedure of the executive director, as needed,

(b) The annual evaluation of the executive director shall be undertaken by the board no earlier than one year after the job description or evaluation tool is established or modified. Subsequent to the evaluation, the chair, or chair's designee, will communicate the results to the executive director.

Section 4. Compensation and termination of the executive director. The rate of compensation or termination of the executive director shall be subject to the prior consent of the full board at the planning meeting.

ARTICLE IX Amending Bylaws

Section 1. Amending bylaws.

(1) These bylaws may be amended only by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the board members.

(2) All members shall be given notification of proposed amendments to the bylaws at the meeting preceding the meeting at which the bylaws are to be amended.

(3) The board shall review the bylaws every two years.

Section 2. Suspending bylaws. These bylaws may be suspended at any meeting only by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting board members present at the meeting.

Bylaws
of the
Washington State
Board of Education
Adopted January 8, 2015

Bylaws Index

ARTICLE I Name

ARTICLE II Purpose

ARTICLE III Membership and Responsibilities

Section 1. Board composition

Section 2. Meeting attendance and preparation,

Section 3. External communication

Section 4. Board responsibilities

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1. Designation

Section 2. Term of officers

Section 3. Officer elections

Section 4. Duties

ARTICLE V Meetings Executive Committee

Section 1. Executive committee

Section 1. Regular meetings

Section 2. Agenda preparation

Section 3. Board action

Section 4. Consent agenda

Section 5. Parliamentary Authority

ARTICLE VI Executive Committee Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings

Section 2. Agenda preparation

Section 3. Board action

Section 4. Consent agenda

Section 5. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Executive committee

ARTICLE VII Committees

Section 1. Designation

ARTICLE VIII Executive Director

Section 1. Appointment

Section 2. Duties

Section 3. Annual evaluation

Section 4. Compensation and termination of the executive director

Section 5. Termination and discipline of the executive director

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Section 1. Amending bylaws

Section 2. Suspending bylaws

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**ARTICLE III
Membership and Responsibilities**

Section 1. Board composition. The membership of the Washington State Board of Education is established by the Legislature and ~~outlined~~ specified in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 28A.305.011).

Section 2. Meeting attendance and preparation. Members are expected to consistently attend and prepare for board and committee meetings, of which they are members, in order to be effective and active participants. Members are further expected to stay current in their knowledge and understanding of the board's projects and policymaking.

Section 3. External communication. Members of the Board should support board decisions and policies when providing information to the public. This does not preclude board members from expressing their personal views. The executive director or a board designee will be the spokesperson for the board with the media.

Section 4. Board responsibilities. The Board may meet in order to review any concerns presented to the chair or executive committee about a board member's inability to perform as a member or for neglect of duty.

Section 5. Member designation as external group liaison. (1) The board chair may designate an individual member as a liaison to an external group.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1. Designation. There shall be five officers of the board: The officers of the board shall be the chair, the vice chair, the immediate past chair, when available, and at least two members at-large.

Section 2. Term of officers. (1) The chair shall serve a term of two years and may serve for no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

(2) The vice chair shall serve a term of two years and may serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

(3) The members at-large shall serve a term of one-year and may serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms.

(4) (a) The immediate past chair shall serve a term of one-year.

(b) Once the immediate past chair has served her/his one year term, the fifth officer position shall be elected as a member at-large.

Section 3. Officer elections. (1) Elections shall be conducted by ballot and in accordance with RCW 42.30.060

(42) Two-year positions. (a) The chair and vice chair shall be elected biennially by the board at the planning meeting of the board.

(b) Each officer under subsection (1)(a) shall take office at the end of the meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor has been duly elected. No more than two consecutive two-year terms may be served by a Board member as chair, or vice chair.

(23) One-year position. (a) The members at-large officer positions shall be elected annually by the Board at the planning meeting of the board.

(b) The members of the board elected as members at-large shall take office at the end of the meeting and shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor has been duly elected. No more than two consecutive one-year terms may be served by a board member as a member at-large.

(c) The immediate past chair position shall be considered a member at-large position for the purpose of duties and term limits.

(34) Vacancies. Upon a vacancy in any officer position, the position shall be filled by election not later than the date of the second ensuing regularly scheduled board meeting. The member elected to fill the vacant officer position shall begin service on the executive committee at the end of the meeting at which she or he was elected and complete the term of office associated with the position.

(b) Time served filling the remainder of a term of office due to vacancy does not count towards the established term limits.

(5) Ties. (a) After three tied votes for an officer position, the election shall be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting, at which time one final vote will be taken.

(b) If the final vote results in a tie, all candidate names shall be placed in a receptacle and the election for the officer position shall be decided by a blind draw of a candidate name from the receptacle by the chair.

Section 4. Duties. (1) **Chair.** The chair shall preside at the meetings of the board, serve as chair of the executive committee, make committee and liaison appointments, be the official voice for the board in matters pertaining to or concerning the board, its programs and/or responsibilities, and otherwise be responsible for the conduct of the business of the board.

(2) **Vice Chair.** The vice chair shall preside at board meetings in the absence of the chair, sit on the executive committee, and assist the chair as may be requested by the chair. When the chair is not available, the vice chair shall be the official voice for the board in all matters pertaining to or concerning the board, its programs and/or responsibilities.

(3) **Immediate Past Chair.** The immediate past chair shall carry out duties as requested by the chair and sit on the executive committee. If the immediate past chair is not available to serve, a member of the board will be elected in her/his place and shall serve as a member at-large.

(4) **Members At-Large.** The members at-large shall carry out duties as requested by the chair and sit on the executive committee.

(5) Members serving as officers of the board may continue to participate in board debates and vote on business items.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Executive committee. (1) (a) The executive committee shall consist of the chair, the vice chair, ~~the immediate past chair,~~ and two members at-large, and the immediate past chair, if available, or third member at-large as elected.

(b) The executive committee shall be responsible for the management of affairs that are delegated to it as a result of Board direction, consensus or motion, including transacting necessary business in the intervals between board meetings, inclusive of preparing agendas for board meetings.

(c) The executive committee shall be responsible for oversight of the budget.

(2) When there is a vacancy of an officer position, the vacant position shall be filled pursuant to the election process in the Board Procedures Manual.

(3) The board chair shall serve as the chair of the executive committee.

(4) The executive committee shall meet at least monthly.

(5) The executive committee shall assure that the board annually conducts a board review and evaluation.

(6) Agendas for each meeting of the executive committee shall be provided to all board members prior to each executive committee meeting.

(7) Minutes for each meeting of the executive committee shall be provided to all board members promptly after each executive committee meeting.

ARTICLE VI Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings. (1) The board shall hold an annual planning meeting and such other regular and special meetings at a time and place within the state as the board shall determine.

(2) The board shall hold a minimum of four meetings yearly, including the annual planning meeting.

(3) A board meeting may be conducted by conference telephone call or by use of video/telecommunication conferencing. Such meetings shall be conducted in a manner that all members participating can hear each other at the same time and that complies with the Open Public Meetings Act. ~~Procedures shall be developed and adopted in the BOARD PROCEDURES MANUAL to specify how recognition is to be sought and the floor obtained during such meetings.~~

Section 2. Agenda preparation. (1) The agenda shall be prepared by the executive committee in consultation with the executive director ~~and other staff, as necessary.~~

(2) Members of the board may submit proposed agenda items to the board chair or the executive director.

(3) In consultation with the executive committee, the board chair, or executive director at the direction of the chair, will give final approval of all items and changes that will appear on the agenda at a board meeting prior to being sent to board members.

(4) The full agenda, with supporting materials, shall be ~~delivered~~ provided to the members of the board at least one week in advance of the board meeting, in order that members may have ample opportunity for study of agenda items listed for action.

(5) The board chair may modify the agenda and items as needed following finalization and provision to board members.

(6) (a) If a member proposes a new agenda item (as described in subsection 2) and it is not included on the final agenda, any member may bring the agenda item for consideration to the full board.

(b) If a majority of the Board passes a motion in support of including the agenda item, the item shall be included on the agenda at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

~~(5) Hearings to receive information and opinions, other than those subject to the provisions of Chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adoption of rules and regulations or as otherwise provided by law, shall be scheduled when necessary on the agenda prior to final consideration for action by the board.~~

Section 3. Board action. (1) All matters within the powers and duties of the board as defined by law shall be acted upon by the board in a properly called regular or special meeting.

(2) A quorum of eight (8) voting members must be present in person, or by telephone or video telecommunications, to conduct the business of the board.

(3)(a) Subject to the presence of a quorum, the minimum number of favorable votes necessary to take official board action is a majority of the members present. There shall be no proxy voting.

(b) In order to vote at a meeting conducted by telephone or video telecommunications conference call, members must be present for the discussion of the issue upon which action will be taken by vote.

(4) The manner in which votes will be conducted to take official board action shall be determined by the board chair, A roll call vote shall be conducted upon the request of an individual member or the chair.

(5) All regular and special meetings of the full board shall be held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 42.30 RCW).

Section 4. Consent agenda. (1) ~~Non-controversial Routine~~ matters and waiver requests meeting established guidelines may be presented to the board on a consent agenda.

(2) Items may shall be removed from the consent agenda upon the request of an individual board member.

~~(3) Items removed from the consent agenda shall be referred to a standing committee or shall be considered by the full board at the direction of the chair~~ added to the regular agenda for further consideration.

Section 5. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the State Board of Education in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, state law and any special rules of order the State Board of Education may adopt.

ARTICLE VII Committees

Section 1. Designation. (1) Responsibilities of the board may be referred to committee for deeper discussion, reflection and making recommendations to the whole board. ~~Rule changes should be discussed in committee before recommended language is referred to the board for discussion and possible vote.~~

(2) The board chair shall appoint at least two board members to each committee to conduct the business of the board.

(3) The board chair or executive director shall inform the whole board of the formation of any committee and of the appointment of members to that committee.

~~(3) Appointments of non-state board members to a state board committee shall be made by the board chair in consultation with the committee chair(s) and the executive director, taking into consideration nominees submitted by board members, and identified groups or organizations.~~

(4) Board members of committees of the board shall determine which board member shall chair the committee.

~~(5) Each committee will be responsible for recommending to the budget process costs associated with responsibilities of the committee.~~

ARTICLE VIII Executive Director

Section 1. Appointment. The board may appoint an executive director.

Section 2. Duties. (a 1) The executive director shall perform such duties as may be determined by the board and shall serve as secretary and non-voting member of the board. The executive director shall house records of the board's proceedings in the board's office and the records shall be available upon request. The executive director is responsible for the performance and operations of the office and for staff support of board member duties.

(b 2) The board shall establish or modify a job description for the executive director, as needed.

Section 3. Annual evaluation. (a 1) The board shall establish or modify the evaluation procedure of the executive director, as needed,

(b 2) The annual evaluation of the executive director shall be undertaken by the board no earlier than one year after the job description or evaluation tool is established or modified.

Subsequent to the evaluation, the chair, or chair's designee, will communicate the results to the executive director. If available, the vice chair shall participate in the communication.

Section 4. Compensation and termination of the executive director. The rate of compensation ~~or termination and terms of employment~~ of the executive director shall be subject to the prior approval ~~consent~~ of the full board at the planning meeting.

Section 5: Termination and discipline of the executive director. (1) Decisions regarding the termination and discipline of the executive director shall be made by the full board.

(2) Decisions regarding the termination and discipline of the executive director may be made at a regular or special meeting if action is required prior to the next scheduled annual planning meeting.

ARTICLE IX Amending Bylaws

Section 1. Amending bylaws.

(1) These bylaws may be amended only by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the board members.

(2) All members shall be given notification of proposed amendments to the bylaws at the meeting preceding the meeting at which the bylaws are to be amended.

(3) The board shall review the bylaws every two years.

Section 2. Suspending bylaws. These bylaws may be suspended at any meeting only by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting board members present at the meeting.



Board Norms for the Washington State Board of Education

Adopted by the Board, November 15, 2013

- Board meetings will focus on the State Board of Education (SBE) goals as articulated in the Strategic Plan, while recognizing that other matters may also be part of a meeting agenda.
- At board meetings and in all communications with the public and staff, SBE members will maintain the dignity and integrity appropriate to an effective public body.
- Every board member should play a meaningful role in the Board's overall deliberations. Each member expects of others a commitment to the work of the SBE and will endeavor to understand the views of other members and to engage in civil discussion. The Board embraces a healthy debate on policy issues.
- The principal purpose of Board meetings is to discuss policies that help all students to succeed, and to graduate from high school college and/or career-ready. Agendas, presentations, and discussions for each board meeting should reflect this overarching purpose.
- Board meetings should include the following procedures:
 - Board meetings should start on time and end on time.
 - Meeting materials should be made available one week in advance (see Bylaw Article V section 2) and should be of high quality.
 - Board members are expected to consistently attend and prepare for Board meetings and to review the materials in advance of the meeting (see Bylaw Article III, section 2).
 - Each staff presentation should begin by clarifying the purpose of the presentation and the decision to be made or issue to be considered.

- Board members should hold their questions (except for brief clarifying questions) until the end of each presentation, or until the presenter offers a designated “pause” for questions.
- Each Board member expects of others a commitment to speak with purpose during each discussion. The Board Chair – or his/her designee – will provide leadership to ensure that the discussions and deliberations are leading to a focused outcome.
- Board meetings should be a forum for Board discussion. Staff and guest presentations should be structured to facilitate this discussion, not supplant it.
- When considering policy proposals, each Board member expects of others an opportunity for advance review. The Board agrees to a “no surprises” mode of operation – all significant proposals should be sent in advance of the meeting (preferably before Board packets are sent) to the Chair and Executive Director for their consideration in constructing the agenda and materials for the meeting.
- Board members may submit proposed agenda items to the Chair or Executive Director (see Bylaw Article V, section 2) for consideration by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will respond to member proposals, as appropriate, in a timely fashion.
- Although the SBE is composed of appointed and elected members, Board members strive for commonality and unity of purpose through their deliberations.
- Board members will maintain the confidentiality of executive sessions.
- Members of the SBE should support board decisions and policies when providing information to the public. This does not preclude board members from expressing their personal views. The executive director or a board designee will be the spokesperson for the board to the media (same as Bylaw Article III, section 3).