

# **GOVERNANCE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

## **BG 2.03 BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES**

The work of the Board is to serve as trustees for the people of the City of Milwaukee in determining and demanding appropriate organizational performance. To distinguish the Board's own unique work from the work of its staff, the Board will concentrate its efforts on the following:

### **(1) THE LINK BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION AND THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE**

(a) The general mandatory powers and duties of the Board are defined in state statutes. The law states or implies that the Board has full power to operate the local public schools as it deems fit in compliance with state and federal mandates.

(b) The Board takes a broad view of its responsibilities and functions. It considers its responsibilities to include the following:

1. The Board has the legal responsibility for the conduct of the public schools and is the only official agency in the community that has such.
2. The Board has a civic responsibility as the controlling body of a basic service essential to the life of the community.
3. The Board has a social responsibility toward all the people who look to the school as the center of growth and development for young and old alike.
4. The Board has an economic responsibility, as there is a direct relationship between good schools and the standard of living.
5. The Board has a moral and ethical responsibility to discharge its functions completely and impartially in the interests of accomplishing the greatest good for the greatest number at all times.

### **(2) BOARD FUNCTIONS**

(a) The Board's major function is policy-making in nature: The Board formulates and adopts broad Rules and Governance policies regarding the employment of staff personnel and the administration of students, educational programs and instructional materials, physical plant and equipment, finances, and public relations. The Board itself shall approve administrative regulations when specific laws require the Board to do so. The Board may also adopt regulations and procedures when the Superintendent recommends Board adoption in light of strong community attitudes or probable staff reactions.

(b) The Board employs its chief administrative officers as its professional advisors and properly delegates to them the authority and responsibility to execute its District policies and administer the schools. The Board exercises its supervision primarily through its chief administrative officers and does not deal directly with individual subordinate staff members on specific problems.

(c) The Board approves sound, realistic budgets as developed and recommended by its Administration and provides the financial resources necessary for executing its District policies.

(d) The Board evaluates the effects of its District policies and the manner of their execution, as well as the routine operation of the schools, by such means as observation, special studies, audits, and periodic reports by its administrative officers. Such appraisals are made for two reasons — to evaluate what is being done and to facilitate future planning.

(e) The Board and its designees shall revisit all of its policies, rules, and procedures each fifth year to evaluate and determine their coherence and appropriateness to the present mission of the school District.

**(3) WRITTEN GOVERNING POLICIES**

The Board shall maintain written governance policies which, at the broadest levels, shall address:

- (a) **District Mission and Goals:** organizational impacts, benefits, outcomes, recipients, and their relative worth (what good for which people and needs at what cost).
- (b) **Board Governance and Operations:** description of how the Board conceives, carries out, and monitors its own tasks.
- (c) **Board/Staff Relationship:** delegation of power and monitoring of its proper use; the roles, authority, and accountability of chief executive officers, who are the Superintendent, the Board Clerk/Director, Office of Board Governance, and the [management of the office of Chief](#)Accountability and Efficiency ~~Officer~~.
- (d) **Executive Limitations:** constraints on executive authority, which establish the prudence and ethical boundaries within which all executive activity and decisions must take place.

**(4) THE ASSURANCE OF ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

(a) To provide the most capable leadership available for MPS, the Board may engage in a nationwide search for applicants whenever any position of chief executive officer is vacant.

(b) These chief executive officers shall be the Superintendent, the Board Clerk/Director, Office of Board Governance and the management of the Office of Accountability and Efficiency.

(c) Because of the great responsibilities assigned to the chief executive officers, the selection of the proper persons for these posts is one of the most important tasks that the Board performs. When there is a vacancy in the office of a chief executive officer, the Board may seek the advice and counsel of interested individuals or of a special or an advisory committee, and it may hire consultants to assist in the selection. Final selection, however, shall rest with the Board after a thorough consideration of qualified applicants.

**(5) FISCAL RESOURCES**

The Board shall provide financial resources for the implementation of district policies in a fiscally responsible and prudent manner.

History:	Adopted 3-6-57; Codified 1976; Revised 1994, 1996; Reaffirmed 4-20-95, 4-25-96, 10-29-15		
Legal Ref.:	W.S. 118.001; 119.04, 119.16, 119.18, 119.32; 119.44		
Cross Ref.	Board Rule	2.01	Standing, Special, and Functional Committees
		2.11	Advisory Committees
Bd.Gov. Policy		1.01	Vision and Mission
		1.02	Goals
		2.01	General Governance Commitment
		2.02	Governing Style
		2.04	Board Member Authority and Duties
		2.11	District Policies: Preliminary Development and Adoption
		2.13	Board Legislative Program
		3.01	Board-Appointed Officials
		3.02	Role of the Superintendent
		3.05	Role of the Director of the Office of Board Governance / Board Clerk
		3.078	Role of the <a href="#">Management of the Office of Chief</a> Accountability and Efficiency <del>Officer</del>
		4.01	General Executive Constraint
		4.05	Budgeting/Forecasting
Admin. Policy		2.02	Superintendent: Recruitment and Appointment
		2.06	Development of Administrative Procedures
		3.06	Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
		3.07	Fiscal Audits
		6.04	Employee Code of Ethics
Monitoring:	Internal report by Board as a part of its annual self-assessment.		
Frequency:	Annually in July.		

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