



## Township High School District 211 Board of Education Agreements

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### **Unity of Purpose**

We affirm the unique role of public education, whereby each community collectively pools its resources for the common good through the education of its students. Therefore, we seek to uphold and improve public education for our community.

- ◆ We want to build trust through CORE (Competence, Openness, Reliability, Equity) and move the District forward.
- ◆ We want to become an effective team.
- ◆ We want to understand our individual jobs and collective responsibilities.
- ◆ We want to be a team with a common, focused direction.
- ◆ We want to create a District culture that supports positive change.
- ◆ We want to perpetuate a positive District culture that survives in the face of Board member and staff turnover.

### **Board Governance**

1. Board members work together as members of one team comprised of seven voices that make decisions in the best interests of the students and communities we serve. Board members encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by our fellow board members and participate in board discussions in an open, honest, and respectful manner, honoring differences of opinion or perspective. Board members abide by majority decisions of the board.
2. The terms within the Oath of Office will guide our decisions, our interactions and our work together.
3. The Board's role is governance and the Superintendent's role is operations and administration. In other words, the Board's role is strategic, giving direction; and the Superintendent's role is operational, executing the Board's direction.
4. Direction is given to the Superintendent at a Board meeting when a majority of the Board agrees to give the direction.
5. The Board President is the spokesperson for the Board to the media. The Superintendent is the spokesperson for the District.
6. As a non-partisan Board and organization, we have a fiduciary responsibility that we will be driven singly by the goals established by the Board and not by special interests.

### **Meeting Preparation**

7. Board members will contact the Superintendent with questions about agenda items or supporting materials before the scheduled Board meeting. Every effort will be made to make this contact at least 24 hours before the Board meeting.
8. Asking questions in advance of a Board meeting allows preparation both for Board members and the Superintendent, and leads to effective and efficient discussion and meetings.

9. An intention to request a potential addition to a future Board meeting agenda item will be shared with the Board President and/or Superintendent before a Board meeting and will then be raised for consideration by the Board at a Board meeting in open session under the agenda item, "Potential Topics for Future Discussion."
10. A majority of the Board will agree in open session before putting an item on a future Board meeting agenda and before significant staff time is expended.

### **Board Member Responsibilities**

11. Board members respect the confidentiality of privileged information and will not divulge conversations, discussions, or deliberations that take place during a closed session meeting.
12. Board members understand that to divulge closed session information not only damages the relationship of the team, but has the potential for far-reaching consequences which may impact future District operations.
13. When disagreements occur, the Board will disagree respectfully and maturely in a way that does not disrupt the ongoing work.
14. Board members will be respectful toward all staff and be respectful of staff's time when requesting information. The Superintendent will notify a Board member if a request is overly cumbersome. The Board member may choose to suggest the item as a future agenda topic.
15. Board members will read all Board packets and supporting documentation before the Board meeting.
16. If an individual Board member has an interaction/communication with the press regarding District business, the individual Board member will inform the Superintendent.
17. Board members will be judicious in their use of email and understand that most emails are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and as such can be made public.
18. In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Board members will not "reply to all" to any District email. Board members will not email other Board members stating their thoughts or opinions.