

## **Governing for Success – Tips for Building an Effective Board** Generation 30 Applicant Support Seminar





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Item	Time
Board Member Selection	10 min
The Advantages of a Diverse Board	5 min
Personal Integrity and the	
Duties of Care, Loyalty, and Obedience	5 min
Board Member Duties and Training Requirements	10 min
Q & A	5 min



# **Board Member Selection**





## **Board Members Promote The Mission And Vision**

- Board members develop, promote, and evaluate the mission and vision of the school by:
  - ensuring that the programs and activities of the school are in alignment with the school's mission and vision; and
  - clearly communicating the school's vision, goals, and direction to students, staff, parents, and the community







### **Board Members Set Performance Expectations**

 Board members hold themselves responsible for the overall performance of the school by:



• setting goals for academic, financial, and operational performance;



hiring a school leader to implement those goals;



- providing resources to assist in the completion of those goals; and
- establishing goal progress measures and a process to evaluate progress on a periodic basis



## **Board Members Hold The Superintendent Accountable**

 Board members hire the school leader and hold the leader accountable for the successful implementation of the school's mission and vision by:



providing resources to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the school;



• allowing the leader to manage those resources to accomplish the performance goals of the school; and



 holding the leader accountable to ensure that the mission and vision are implemented successfully as measured by performance goals.



#### **Board Members Seek Input And Advice**

• Board members listen to the concerns of students, parents, staff, and the charter community and act on those concerns by:



• establishing board committees to advise the board so that decisions are based on high-quality, relevant information; and



 seeking feedback through other processes such as surveys and open forums.



#### **For Discussion**

- What are the ways that I, as a board member, promote the mission and vision of the school? How do we do this as a board?
- As a board, have we set performance expectations for the school?
- Do we know what those metrics are? Are they measurable? How often do we review progress on performance expectations?
- Is the superintendent's evaluation linked to our performance expectations? What other performance measures are in place for our superintendent?
- As a board, do we have systems in place to get feedback from key stakeholders, including parents, staff, community members, and students?



## **The Advantages of a Diverse Board**





### **Professional Diversity**

- Individual board members should have personal and professional experiences and training that provide a rich array of skills that will benefit the school, including areas such as:
  - Finance
  - Education
  - Real estate
  - Law
  - Service professions
  - Human resources
  - Medical professions
  - Industry-based professions





#### **Other Essential Traits Of Board Members**

- The ability to *communicate effectively* to staff, parents, and students
- A willingness to grow professionally and become a knowledgeable board member
- A desire for *personal accountability* for the overall success of the school and the accomplishment of its mission and vision



• Does our board membership reflect professional diversity? What are some areas of professional expertise that we need to add to our board?



# Personal Integrity and the Duties of Care, Loyalty, and Obedience





- Charter school boards are trusted with the responsibility to ensure the school is well managed, has high academic expectations and performance, and is fiscally sound. Fiduciary duties fall into three categories:
  - Duty of care
  - Duty of loyalty
  - Duty of obedience





The duty of care requires board members to be reasonably aware of what is occurring at the school so they can make informed decisions.



As part of the duty of care, board members should be prepared for meetings, actively participate in planning and decision-making, and make informed judgments.



Duty of loyalty requires board members to always put the best interests of the school above any personal or professional interests.



Board members should not serve on the board for financial, or other, gain for themselves or their families.

Fulfilling this duty requires board members to be free of real conflicts of interest, be free of perceived conflicts of interest and not engage in related party transactions.



Duty of obedience requires board members to ensure that the school complies with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.



It also requires board members to ensure that the school is acting in good faith to fulfill the terms of its charter contract and other policies established by the authorizing body.

When making decisions, board members should only make decisions that are in the best interest of students. The board should also ensure that the school is obeying the policies that the board has adopted.



# Board Member Duties and Training Requirements





Final authority to:

- hear grievances;
- adopt/amend budget;
- direct the disposition of records;
- adopt charter operation policies;
- approve annual audit reports; and
- select, employ, direct, evaluate, renew, non-renew, terminate, or set compensation for Chief Executive Officer (Superintendent).

19 TAC §100.1113(a)(1)



Final authority to:

- organize the charter school's central administration;
- approve reports or data submissions required by law; and
- to select and terminate charter school employees or officers.

19 TAC §100.1113(a)(2)





## Training and Chapter 100 Rule Updates





#### **General requirements** for all training:

- Delivered by Authorized Training Provider
- Delivery can be online or in-person, but must have:
  - Interaction with instructor
  - Assess learning and provide feedback
- There are exemptions for individuals certified by other bodies



#### Core training requirements for all board members and officers

- 10 hours within the first year of that person's service
- Specific Core training content
  - Charter law
  - Accountability to the public
  - Evaluating and improving student outcomes (EISO)
  - Accountability for public funds
  - School safety



# Additional training requirements specific to new board members and officers

- Board members: 2 additional hours touching on the topics discussed here today;
- Administrative officers:
  - Central officers: 20 additional hours expanding on the Core topics
  - Business managers: 20 additional hours expanding on the Core topics



# **Continuing training requirements** specific to board members and officers

- Will include topics that will meet the needs of the school, address updates to the Core training, or specialized training for schools that underperformed in academic or financial accountability
- Continuing training hours:
  - Board members: 6 hours
  - Central administrators: 15 hours
  - Campus administrators: 5 hours
  - Business managers: 15 hours



For both Additional training and Continuing training, if excess hours are earned, 25% of those excess hours may be carried over to meet the next year's requirements.







Jeff Koch, Portfolio Coordinator Division of Charter School Authorizing Jeffrey.Koch@TEA.Texas.gov