Jim Thorpe Area School District

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| Book | Policy Manual |
| Section | 000 Local Board Procedures |
| Title | Principles for Governance and Leadership |
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*This board policy supports the Principles for Governance and Leadership adopted by the board and signed by individual school directors.*

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing every student the opportunity to grow and achieve. **Our** actions**, as elected and appointed board members,** ultimately have both short and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, **we pledge that we** will . . .

**Lead Responsibly**
- Prepare for, attend, and actively participate in board meetings
- Work together **with civility and** cooperation**, respecting that individuals hold differing opinions and ideas**
- Participate in professional development, training, and board retreats
- Collaborate with the Superintendent**, acknowledging their role** as the **10th member of the board and commissioned officer of the Commonwealth**

**Act Ethically**
- Never use the position for improper benefit to self or others
- **Avoid** actual or perceived conflicts of interest
- Recognize **school directors do not possess any** authority outside of the collective board
- **Accept that when a board has made a decision, it is time to move forward collectively and constructively**

**Plan Thoughtfully**
- **Implement** a collaborative **strategic** planning process
- Set annual goals that are aligned with comprehensive plan**s, recognizing the need to adapt as situations change**
- Develop a **comprehensive** financial plan **and master facilities plan** that anticipates short and long-term needs
- **Allocate resources to effectively impact student success**

**Evaluate Continuously**
- **Make** data-informed decisions
- **Evaluate** the Superintendent **annually**
- **Conduct a board self-assessment on a recurring basis**
- **Focus on** student growth and achievement

- Review effectiveness of **all** comprehensive **and strategic plans**

**Communicate Clearly**

- Promote open, honest, and respectful dialogue among the board, staff, and community
- **Acknowledge and listen to varied** input **from all stakeholders**
- **Promote transparency while protecting necessary confidential matters**
- **Set expectations and guidelines for individual board member communication**

**Advocate Earnestly**

- Promote public education as a keystone of **our Commonwealth**
- Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action
- Champion public education by **engaging** local, state, and federal **officials**

**Govern Effectively**

- **Establish and** adhere to rules and procedures for board operations
- Develop, adopt, revise, and review policy **routinely**
- Align **board** decisions to policy **ensuring compliance with the PA School Code and other local, state, and federal laws**
- **Remain focused on the role of** governance, **effectively** delegating management tasks to **the** administration

**PSBA Revision 11/22 © 2022 PSBA**

Principles for Governance and Leadership.pdf (363 KB)