



Independent School  
District

Board Operating  
Procedures

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Ethics for School Board Members</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Board Meetings</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Developing the Board Meeting Agenda .....	5
Agenda .....	5
Timely Notification and Information .....	5
Consent Agenda.....	6
Meeting Dates .....	6
Conducting Board Meetings.....	7
Quorum .....	7
Opening Meeting .....	7
Executive/Closed Meeting .....	7
Public Participation .....	8
Response to Citizens Addressing the Board .....	9
Board Meeting Parliamentary Procedure.....	10
Transacting Business .....	10
Hearings .....	10
Board Workshops .....	11
Board Committees .....	11
Electing Board Officers .....	12
President .....	12
Vice President .....	13
Secretary .....	13
New Trustee Orientation .....	13
Trustee Vacancies .....	13
<b>Annual Evaluations</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Superintendent Evaluation.....	14
Board Evaluation/Team Building.....	15

<b>Individual Trustees</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Access to Information .....	17
Authority.....	17
Communication with Other Trustees.....	18
Communication with the Public.....	18
Communication with the Media.....	18
Complaints to Trustees .....	19
Continuing Education.....	20
Meetings with the Superintendent and Other District Employees .....	21
Reimbursable Expenses .....	22
Visits to Campuses .....	23
Conflicts of Interest .....	24
Participation at District Activities .....	24
 <b>General Information</b> .....	 <b>25</b>

# ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

As a member of the Board, I shall promote the best interests of the district as a whole and, to that end, shall adhere to the following ethical standards:

## Equity in attitude

- I will be fair, just, and impartial in all my decisions and actions.
- I will accord others the respect I wish for myself.
- I will encourage expressions of different opinions and listen with an open mind to others' ideas.

## Trustworthiness in stewardship

- I will be accountable to the public by representing district policies, programs, priorities and progress accurately.
- I will be responsive to the community by seeking its involvement in district affairs and by communicating its priorities and concerns.
- I will work to ensure prudent and accountable use of district resources.
- I will make no personal promise or take private action that may compromise my performance of my responsibilities.

## Honor in conduct

- I will tell the truth.
- I will share my views while working for consensus.
- I will respect and support the majority decision as the decision of the board.
- I will base my decisions on fact rather than supposition, opinion, or public favor.

## Integrity of character

- I will refuse to surrender judgment to any individual or group at the expense of the district as a whole.
- I will consistently uphold all applicable laws, rules, policies, and

governance procedures.

- I will keep confidential information that is privileged by law or that will needlessly harm the district if disclosed.

### **Commitment to service**

- I will focus my attention on fulfilling the board's responsibilities of goal setting, policy making, and evaluation.
- I will diligently prepare for and attend board meetings.
- I will seek continuing education that will enhance my ability to fulfill my duties effectively.

### **Student-centered focus**

- I will be continuously guided by what is best for all students of the district.

# BOARD MEETINGS

## Developing the Board Meeting Agenda

### Agenda

- A draft of the agenda is prepared by the superintendent and provided to the board president for approval on/before the Friday before the scheduled meeting .
- Any trustee may request that an item be placed on the agenda for future meetings.
- All trustee-related topics submitted at least six business days prior to the meeting shall be included unless the president and the superintendent agree to postpone the item until a certain date.
- No item can be placed on the agenda less than 72 hours in advance of a meeting unless an emergency or urgent public necessity exists.
- GISD Staff and members of the public will be notified of the posting of a board meeting agenda through the GISD website and the required posting bulletin board at the GISD Administration building.

### Timely Notification and Information

- Trustees shall be notified of a meeting at least 72 hours prior to a regular or special meeting, and at least two hours prior to an emergency meeting.
- Trustees will receive relevant supporting documents for the upcoming meeting at least 72 hours prior to the meeting; information requested by one trustee will be provided to all trustees at the same time.
- Trustees will read and study the documents prior to each meeting. Requests for information or questions about any agenda item will be made at least one business day prior to the scheduled meeting.
- Members should request information not related to a meeting

agenda item directly from the superintendent. In the event the request requires a special report that will divert staff time from established priorities, the superintendent will notify the requester and the president.

- Information will be available to each trustee online and by hard copy. Questions regarding supporting documents should be directed to the superintendent or designee prior to the meeting if possible.
- The superintendent will prepare and disseminate information as needed to address emerging issues or to provide follow-up.

### **Consent Agenda**

- The consent agenda includes items of routine and/or recurring nature, grouped together under one action item.
- The superintendent shall determine which items qualify for inclusion in the consent agenda during the development of the meeting agenda.
- Background materials for each agenda item will be furnished to the board in the meeting's supporting documents.
- A trustee may request that an item be withdrawn for individual consideration.
- All consent agenda items shall be acted upon by one vote without separate discussion.
- Voting results for all consent agenda items will be specified in the minutes.

### **Meeting Dates**

- The superintendent will develop a board calendar that will include meeting dates of the Board of Trustees.
- The calendar and agenda items will be made available for the board and public using appropriate communication methods and posted in accordance with board legal policy.
- The calendar will be reviewed monthly for updates and revisions.
- Standard meeting dates will be on the third Monday of each month. If the third Monday falls on a holiday or conflicts with the school calendar in anyway, an alternative date will be selected.

## Conducting Board Meetings

### Quorum

- Any time four or more trustees are gathered to discuss school district business, it is considered a meeting and must be posted as such according to board legal policy.
- If less than four trustees are present, school district business cannot be conducted.
- Social functions, conventions, ceremonial events, forums, and similar functions are not considered meetings so long as formal action is not taken.

### Opening Meeting

- The board will open each regular meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags. The pledges may be led by a trustee, staff or guests invited for this purpose.

### Executive/Closed Meeting

- The board may meet in closed session as provided in the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E.
- The posted agenda shall identify the applicable section(s) of the Texas Open Meetings Act authorizing the closed meeting.
- Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify each applicable section(s) of the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- The superintendent attends all meetings of the board, both public and closed, except when the board is considering the superintendent's contract, evaluation or performance; or is resolving conflicts between individual trustees.
- All final votes, actions, or decisions regarding the closed meeting items will be taken in open meeting.



- In the event of the superintendent's illness or board approved absence, the superintendent's designee attends such meetings.
- The board may invite individuals to address a topic during closed meeting.
- A certified agenda is required for all closed meetings and will be signed by the president. Certified agendas must be kept locked and confidential for at least 2 years after the meeting date and are only legally accessible to current trustees.
- Only topics related to the cited section of the Texas Open Meetings Act prior to convening in closed meeting may be discussed in closed meeting.
- Given the legal and sensitive nature of closed meetings, trustees understand that the law requires that all such meetings are strictly confidential.

### **Public Participation**

- At regular meetings of the board, the president shall allot time to hear persons who desire to make comments to the board.
- At regular meetings of the board, the procedures for public comment will be printed on the agenda beside the open forum item, or the Board President may announce the rules for public participation.
- Any person may address the board at a regular board meeting during Open Forums on the agenda. A citizen must register to speak using the appropriate forms and policies prior to the opening of the board meeting. At the direction of the president, public comments relating to a specific agenda item may be postponed until that item is discussed.
- The president, upon reviewing the requests to speak and determining that several persons wish to speak on the same topic, may direct those persons to combine their points and appoint one person to represent their concerns on that topic.
  - 1st Open Forum – The first open forum is held at the beginning of the meeting immediately following the call to order and the pledge to the flags. The forum is open for citizens to address the board on any subject and all who sign up to speak will be allotted 3 minutes to address the board. No action may be taken, but the board may consider future action

- 2nd Open Forum – The second open forum will be held preceding the Consent and New Business portion of the agenda. This time is set aside to allow citizens the opportunity to raise issues concerning items that will be considered for action by the board. The agenda items to be addressed must be specified. The Board may apply measures to consolidate the time allocated and/or the number of speakers wishing to speak on the same topic.
- Citizen comments may be on items listed on the agenda or other areas of school district operations, but shall not include complaints that name specific students.
  - Citizens shall not name specific employees when discussing complaints. Citizens who wish to file a complaint about specific employees will be directed to the district's grievance policy and made aware that public discussion of complaints against district employees may unduly prejudice the board if they seek recourse through the formal grievance process.
  - Questions asked by the public on topics posted on the agenda may be answered during the discussion of that agenda item. Comments or questions on topics not on the posted agenda may be referred to the superintendent for consideration and later response.
  - The board vests in its president or presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when such individual does not adhere to the established rules.

### **Response to Citizens Addressing the Board**

- Trustees will listen attentively to comments.
- If a speaker brings a complaint about an individual district staff person, the president will stop the speaker and the speaker will be reminded of the formal grievance process available to them as outlined in policy.
- Trustees will not respond to or enter into discussion with the audience during the meeting since items on the agenda will be discussed as appropriate and scheduled. Items not on the agenda are not allowed in discussion.

- The board designates the president as its spokesperson if a response to the speaker is required. The president will limit responses to those allowed by law:
  - Statements of fact, and
  - References to board policy.

### **Board Meeting Parliamentary Procedure**

- The board shall be guided by parliamentary procedure as detailed in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, or as spelled out in adopted procedure.
- The president has the responsibility to keep the discussion to the motion at hand and shall halt discussion that does not apply to the business of the board.
- Except in conflict of interest, as defined by law, or ethical conflict of interest, trustees are expected to vote on all action items.

### **Transacting Business**

- When an agenda item is presented, a discussion shall be held and a decision reached through voting in accordance with prescribed procedure. Although there may be dissenting votes, which are a matter of record, each board decision shall be an action by the whole board, binding upon each trustee.

### **Hearings**

- The board will follow all state requirements for hearings related to the public, including time for public comment.
- The board will follow the district's established grievance policy procedures as identified in the district's Board Policy Manual on-line.

## Board Workshops

- The board will conduct board workshops on an as needed basis.
- The workshop format is intended to allow the administration to present information to the board that is:
  - Time sensitive and/or discussion intensive,
  - Required by law, rule, policy, and/or
  - Necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the district.
- The superintendent will use discretion in determining the nature and extent of background materials specific to each agenda item and whether those materials should be delivered to trustees prior to the workshops.
- When it is necessary to place an action item on the workshop agenda, the board will receive supporting documents in advance for review.
- The workshops are intended as an opportunity for the Team of Eight, along with pertinent staff members, to research and discuss topics in depth, along with pertinent staff members.

## Board Committees

- The board may, from time to time as it deems necessary, create committees to facilitate the efficient operation of the board.
- A committee that includes less than a quorum of the board is not subject to the Open Meetings Act if it serves a purely advisory function with no power to supervise or control public business. However, should the committee actually function as something more than an advisory body, having supervision or control functions, it must comply with the Open Meetings Act to avoid depriving the public access to the board's actual decision-making process.

## Electing Board Officers

- At the first meeting after the annual Board of Trustees election and certification of trustees, the members shall organize by selecting:
  - A president, who must be a member of the board,
  - A vice-president, who must be a member of the board,

- A secretary, who must be a member of the board, and
  - Other officers and committees the board considers necessary. The board may appoint, with the superintendent's concurrence, a member of his/her staff to serve as recording secretary of the board for the purposes of communications and administrative functions necessary for the effective operation of the board.
- A vacancy in the office of the president will be filled by majority election. The vice president becomes president only upon being elected to the position. However, the vice president will serve as temporary president until such an election takes place.
  - The board can elect an officer to fill any vacancy.
  - Duties and officer positions will be reviewed in preparation for nomination of trustees for board officer positions.
  - To be eligible for a board officer position a minimum of one year board service is preferred.
  - Ideally board officer positions should be rotated.

### **President**

- The president presides at all meetings.
- The president or, in his or her absence, the vice president will serve as the board spokesperson to the media on issues regarding board actions.
- The president is responsible for signing a certified agenda of all closed meetings.
- The president/and superintendent are responsible for the new trustee orientation attendance and completion.
- The president/and superintendent is responsible for required annual Team of Eight training.
- The president may officiate at district events.

### **Vice President**

- The vice president will serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the president.
- The vice president, in the absence of the president, may officiate at district events.

## **Secretary**

- Along with the president, the secretary signs all required minutes, contracts, etc.
- The executive assistant to the superintendent is responsible for ensuring that minutes are recorded at each board meeting and workshop and that minutes are posted in a timely fashion on the district website.

## **New Trustee Orientation**

- All newly elected trustees are required to receive orientation within 120 days of being sworn into the board.
- The superintendent's office is responsible for arranging this orientation.
- Suggested orientation topics include but are not limited to:
  - Board Operating Procedures,
  - Board Policy Manual,
  - District organizational chart and staff responsibilities,
  - Parliamentary Procedures, and
  - Regional, state, and national affiliations and activities.

## **Trustee Vacancies**

- Trustee vacancies will be filled within the guidelines of state law.

# ANNUAL EVALUATIONS

## Superintendent Evaluation

Evaluations will be conducted annually during the January board meeting(closed session).

- Usually held during January, the formative evaluation process will occur during the board meeting in closed session to review current district progress toward goals and objectives set forth in the previous superintendent evaluation. The board will then discuss with the superintendent areas of accomplishment as well as areas in need of additional focus. The board may develop a document summarizing results of the formative evaluation. The document will be signed by the president and provided to the superintendent in a timely manner. This evaluation occurs following the annual Board of Trustee election and should include discussion that fosters an early understanding among new trustees of the evaluation process and the superintendent's current performance objectives and priorities. All discussions will be held in a manner not to violate the Texas Open Meetings Act. The board may discuss the superintendent's contract at the formative evaluation; any modifications to the superintendent's contract require action of the board in open meeting.
- A summative evaluation will be conducted in closed meeting annually in January and will include discussion of the superintendent's contract.
  - The Superintendent prepares a State of the District report for board review and possible action.
  - During the summative evaluation meeting, the board may determine any modifications to the superintendent's contract, including, but not limited to, contract term extensions, salary increases, and changes in benefits.
  - Modifications to the superintendent's contract require action of the Board in open meeting.
  - Specific details of the superintendent's evaluation are to be kept confidential and are not subject to the Texas Freedom of Information Act. However, as part of the posted evaluation agenda item, the board may issue a public statement regarding the overall level of satisfaction of the board regarding the superintendent's performance.
- The board shall strive to accomplish the following during the summative evaluation:

- Clarify to the superintendent his or her role, as seen by the board.
- Clarify to trustees the superintendent's role, as expressed in the superintendent's job description and the district's goals and objectives.
- Foster an early understanding among new trustees of the evaluation process and the superintendent's current performance objectives and priorities.
- Develop and sustain a harmonious working relationship between the board and the superintendent.
- Identify accomplishments and areas in need of improvement for the superintendent and district.

### **Board Evaluation/Team Building**

- Board Team Building may be used to review and modify board priorities that will be used to establish district goals and objectives that guide planning and budgeting.
- The board may also use this time to conduct a board self-evaluation. To the extent that the meeting does not violate the Texas Open Meetings Act, the evaluation may include:
  - Board operating procedures,
  - Trustee training,
  - Conflict resolution,
  - Working relationships with the superintendent,
  - Conduct of board meetings,
  - Long-range planning and goal setting,
  - Relationship with the community, and
  - The board's role in achieving district goals and objectives.
- In the months before the discussion, each trustee shall:
  - Review the board's goals for the current year to ensure that all trustees are familiar with board priorities,
  - Reaffirm the purpose of the self-evaluation so that all trustees understand the desired outcomes of the evaluation, and



- Review any information or materials collected by the superintendent that the board might need in conducting its self-evaluation. This material might include documentation on district goals for the current year, reports of the board's successes and progress in meeting these goals, records of board meetings and community participation, and media/newspaper clippings.

# INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEES

## Access to Information

- An individual trustee, acting in his or her official capacity, shall have the right to see information pertaining to district fiscal affairs, business transactions, governance, and personnel matters, including information that properly may be withheld from members of the general public in accordance with the Public Information Chapter of the Government Code.
- Individual trustees shall not have access to confidential student records unless there is a legitimate educational interest in the records in accordance with board policies.
- All requests by a trustee for compilation of data, other than copies of existing records, shall be directed to the superintendent. The superintendent will prepare requested reports and distribute them to the entire board. If the preparation of the requested report is expected to consume excessive staff time and resources, the superintendent will confer with the president to determine whether the requested report should be placed on an upcoming agenda for possible action.
- In general, requests for information made by one trustee that require compilation of a written report shall be shared by the superintendent with all trustees.
- A family member (related by consanguinity “blood” within the third degree or by affinity “marriage” within the second degree) of a trustee should not serve on district committees. Appointment of a family member diminishes the perception of transparency as well as trustee access to information which should be equal and timely for all trustees.
- Trustee participation in organizations as a representative of the Board of Trustees should be when possible rotated among trustees. If a trustee cannot regularly attend, a new trustee should be designated. Information from these meetings is reported to the board during Board Calendars.

## Authority

- Trustees as individuals shall not exercise authority over the district, its property, or its employees.
- Except for appropriate duties and functions of the president, an individual member may not act on behalf of the Board without the express

authorization of the board. Without such authorization, no individual member may commit the board on any issue.

- Trustees will avoid personal involvement in activities the board has delegated to the superintendent.

## Communication with Other Trustees

- Communication with other trustees (in any forum other than a meeting duly posted, in which a quorum is present) regarding district issues/items should be avoided to ensure compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- Board electronic and written communications regarding district issues should be routed through the superintendent's office so that information can be disseminated and/or questions can be addressed in this manner, rather than among and between trustees.
- Trustees shall be cognizant of The Texas Open Meetings Act responsibilities to avoid walking quorums.

## Communication with the Public

- Trustees are encouraged to participate in community activities as liaisons between the public and the district. When doing so, trustees are expected to:
  - Relay information about district goals,
  - Clarify a trustee's limitations, obligations, and responsibilities as an individual member of the board,
  - Support Board of Trustees decisions,
  - Interact in a positive manner,
  - Listen politely and respectfully to comments,
  - Make no commitment on behalf of the board or district,
  - Avoid criticizing district personnel, and
  - Refer questions about specific district activities to the appropriate staff person who can best answer the questions.

## Communication with the Media

- The president or, in his or her absence, the vice president will serve as the board spokesperson to the media on issues regarding board actions.
- The superintendent or, in his or her absence, a specified designee shall be the official district spokesperson to the media on district issues.
- Trustees asked for individual comments or opinions by the media/press are to qualify those statements as being the opinion of the individual trustee and not representative of the board as a whole or of the district.
- Trustees should notify the Superintendent or the Director of Communications any time a request for comment or interview is made by members of the media in order for interviews to be coordinated and scheduled.

## Complaints to Trustees

- Listen briefly and respectfully. Remind the complainant of the board's responsibility to remain impartial and noncommittal because complaints may ultimately be brought to the board on appeal.
- Determine if the complainant wishes to express dissatisfaction or desires some action be taken to resolve an issue.
- Complainants who desire some action be taken should be directed or referred to the appropriate policy outlining grievance procedures and informed that the steps listed in policy are necessary to protect everyone's rights while following an orderly process.
- Employees, students, parents, or other members of the public who bring concerns or complaints to an individual trustee shall be directed by that trustee to the district's chain of command process to insure active, effective communication.
  - The complainant should first discuss the problem with the person in authority closest to the problem.
  - If not satisfied with the resolution of the problem, the complainant should go to the administrative supervisor of the person noted in the initial complaint.
  - The administrative supervisor will help the complainant initiate any correspondence or forms required by policy and attempt to resolve the complaint.
  - If still not satisfied, the complainant may appeal to the superintendent or a designee for resolution.

- If the superintendent is unable to resolve the issue or the complainant is still not satisfied, the formal complaint is brought to the board following local policy.
- Trustees should notify the superintendent of the complaint, as necessary. If an administrative response is required, the superintendent or designee will reply to the email with a copy of that reply being sent to each trustee for information.
- As necessary, the superintendent or designee shall guide the complainant to the appropriate staff member as outlined in the board policy complaint process.
- When the concern or complaint directly pertains to the board's own actions or policy, for which there is an administrative remedy, the trustee may request that the issue be placed on the board meeting agenda.
- Anonymous calls or letters will not receive the board's attention, discussion, or response and will not be referred to the administration for action.
- When a complaint regarding the superintendent is received by a trustee, the trustee may forward the complaint to the president. If the receiving trustee and/or president deem the complaint worthy of further consideration by the board as a whole, the complaint should be discussed at the next board meeting if urgent or during the superintendent's next evaluation.

## Continuing Education

- Trustees are required to complete training as specified in the Texas Education Code; training requirements may be adjusted by the Texas Legislature, by the State Board of Education, or by the Texas Education Agency.
  - A newly elected or appointed trustee, having served less than 12 months, is required to complete training on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to:
    - Local orientation,
    - Introduction to the Texas Education Code (TEC),
    - Texas Open Meetings Act,
    - Cybersecurity,
    - Child Abuse Prevention,

- Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes (EISO),
  - Team Building, and
  - An additional 10 hours of continuing education in topics of choice.
- An experienced trustee, serving more than one year, is required to receive the following training:
  - Update to the TEC following a legislative session,
  - Cybersecurity,
  - Child Abuse Prevention,
  - EISO training,
  - Team Building, and
  - An additional 5 hours of continuing education in topics of choice.
  - These training elements for experienced trustees may be adjusted as described in 7. a. above.
- The president of the Board of Trustees shall receive continuing education related to leadership duties of a president.
- To the extent possible, the entire board shall participate in continuing education programs together.
- Annually, as prescribed by law, each trustee's training hours will be read into the minutes, announcing the name of each trustee who has completed the required continuing education, who has exceeded the required hours, and who is deficient in the required hours.
- Trustees may share information from continuing education programs/conferences during allotted time at board meetings or by written report, as appropriate.

## **Meetings with the Superintendent and other District Employees**

- Meetings and the topics to be discussed with the superintendent should be scheduled with the executive assistant to ensure that the superintendent is available, that adequate time is set aside for the meeting, and that appropriate information and materials are available for discussion.
- When a trustee wishes to meet formally with any other district employee, the trustee will inform the superintendent. The superintendent will schedule

the meeting and contact the trustee, as these meetings have the potential to divert staff time from established priorities.

- Trustees may attend district staff meetings when invited.
- Trustees, as a general rule, may not serve on district committees without prior approval of the board.

## Reimbursable Expenses

- Trustees shall be reimbursed for reasonable and allowable expenses incurred for:
  - Carrying out the business of the board, and
  - Attending meetings as official representatives of the board (ex: NTAASB North Texas Area Association of School Boards, NSBA National School Board Association, TASB Texas Association of School Boards).
- Reimbursement for additional conventions/conferences and associated allowable expense will require prior board discussion.
- Priority shall be given to attend conferences as a group.
- Arrangements necessary to register for a conference/convention and related accommodations (hotel, travel, etc.) may be arranged through the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.
- Late registration will be allowed for any trustee whose professional schedule may be unpredictable.
- Itemized receipts required for all reasonable expenses are defined to mean:
  - Hotel - not to exceed the standard negotiated rate available through the conference sponsor. If no standard negotiated rate has been established, the reimbursement rate shall not exceed the rate in accordance with the General Appropriation Act (77th Legislature),
  - Parking – Self parking charges of the hotel in which the trustee is a guest, unless no self-parking is available,
  - Mileage – not to exceed the allowable IRS rates for use of a personal car or the actual cost of the reasonable fare for commercial transportation plus parking, and
  - Meals – Per diems will be provided per district guidelines.

- No reimbursement will be made for:
  - Non-district fax or phone calls,
  - Entertainment or in-room movies,
  - Alcohol,
  - Souvenirs, or
  - Spouse/family expenses.
  
- Cancellation of conference registration, hotel and travel accommodations, etc. must be completed within the allowable “cancellation” timeline established by the vendor or sponsoring entity. Every attempt must be made by the trustee to notify the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of such cancellation plans as soon as plans need to be changed. For cancellations not completed within the designated timeline, the loss of reimbursement eligibility and/or monetary commitment of the district shall be borne by the individual trustee responsible for the cancellation, unless the cancellation is the result of personal illness, family emergency, or a professional emergency.
  
- Accounting records shall accurately reflect that no state or federal funds were used to reimburse travel expenses in excess of those authorized.

## Visits to Campuses

- Trustees are encouraged to attend any and all school events as their time permits and to show support of school activities.
- Trustees will notify the superintendent prior to visiting a campus in an official capacity, include the nature of the visit, and sign in at the campus office.
- Individual classroom visits will be made by invitation only, and campus administrators will be notified in advance. Trustees shall not visit a campus in an attempt to evaluate personnel on that campus.
- Campus staff members may have difficulty viewing trustees as parents, rather than as trustees. Therefore, when visiting a campus or classroom as parents, trustees shall:
  - Make it clear that they are acting as parents,



- Follow the same rules and guidelines for all parents regarding campus visits, and
  - Never request nor accept extraordinary consideration for their children.
- Trustees running for re-election shall not request or accept support from district employees during work time or make campus visits in conjunction with campaigning for a board position.
- New trustee candidates, after having declared their intention to run for election, will be provided information on guidelines for campus visits and restrictions related to trustees and campaigning.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

- Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires a records administrator of a school district to file a conflicts disclosure statement if:
  - the school district has contracted with a person or is potentially conducting business with the person, and the superintendent, trustee or a family member of any of these is either an employee or has a business relationship with the person, and
  - receives taxable income or has been given by a person one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of \$250.00 in a year preceding the date the local government official became aware of the facts that trigger the filing requirement. The statement must be filed with the records administrator no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 7th day after the date the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of a statement.

## **Participation in District Commencement Exercises or as a Board Representative at District Activities**

- Sitting trustees are encouraged to participate in district commencement exercises.
- Trustees retiring from board service at the end of their term may be allowed to participate in commencement exercises if desired.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Board of Trustees Meetings

Gainesville ISD board meetings generally take place the third Monday of each month in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 800 South Morris St. in Gainesville, Texas. Meetings begin at 5 p.m. and are open to the public. During months where holiday breaks occur (March, July, November, December for example) meeting schedules may be altered. Called meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis; Texas law does allow the board to call an emergency meeting in a crisis situation.

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the board has the privilege to meet privately in closed session to discuss matters related to personnel, student discipline, security, land acquisition or consultation with legal counsel. No action, however, may be taken during a closed session.

## Addressing the Board

The board encourages comments from citizens of the district and from district employees. Anyone wishing to address the board, either as an individual or as a representative of a group, may do so during the Open Forum portion of the meeting. The board asks that comments pertain to public education and be no longer than three minutes.

Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting must complete a Public Comment form and submit it to the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent prior to the start of the meeting.

According to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the board may not discuss or act upon any issues that are not posted on the meeting agenda. If an issue mentioned is listed on the meeting agenda, the board will defer discussion of the issue until the appropriate time during the meeting.

The board has adopted complaint policies that are designed to provide a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and concerns. Students and/or their parents may file complaints in accordance with board. Employees may file complaints in accordance with board policy. Other citizens may file complaints in accordance with policy.

The board president may appoint a committee of up to three trustees to review Board Operating Procedures, preferably in the spring prior to board elections in May.

Copies of Gainesville ISD District policies about public participation in board meetings and filing complaints are available on the GISD website, [www.gainesvilleisd.org](http://www.gainesvilleisd.org), and by contacting the executive assistant to the superintendent at 940.665.4362.