
**IOWA CITY COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Superintendent

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
509 S. DUBUQUE STREET
8:00 A.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Cooper, Gayle Klouda, Tim Krumm, Lane Plugge, and Michael Shaw

Chair Klouda called the meeting to order.

1. Discussed review of Board Policies. The Board is responsible for regularly reviewing/updating Board Policies. The Board adopted Policy Governance approach several years ago, at which time Board adopted new governance policies – Ends Policies, Superintendent Limitations. The Board Policies previously maintained by the Board were assigned to the administration. Exception was made for a subset of those policies which were determined to be legally the responsibility of the Board. This subset became the "Board Policy Appendix."
2. Last year, during our re-accreditation visit, a comment was made that the Board needs to engage in regular review of its Board Policies. As a consequence, we embarked on a review of the Appendix and we agreed as a Board that we would work through those policies, with the Governance Committee taking the lead.
3. On 01/22/09, the Governance Committee discussed this situation and its pitfalls. We want to be true to "policy" governance, but by treating the policies traditionally known as "Board Policies" as administrative, we are out of step with the IASB and perhaps not understood by our re-accreditors. It is also highly confusing to us – and therefore to the public – as to how all these policies fit together.
4. Our recommendation is that the Board place all of the policies – now maintained separately as Administrative Policies and Board Appendix – back together. This is not to say that we are abandoning policy governance, or that we now want to blur the line between "ends" and "means" at the board level. Rather, we just want to create a single, more usable document that will be easier to keep current. Thus, we recommend that:
 - a. Pages be color-coded to distinguish between those which are required board policies or which refer to actions or responsibilities of the board v. those which have been delegated to the administration. A notation may also be used – such as "board responsibility" or "superintendent responsibility"
 - b. The board will review all of the policies (not just our Appendix) over a 5 year cycle – as required by law. The Governance Committee will be responsible for guiding this work.
 - c. We set as a goal to have the entire Board Policy reference manual online. We discussed turning in our loose-leaf notebooks and relying instead on the online version – maintaining only a couple of reference copies at the CAO and in the ICPL. This would hopefully reduce error (in the books) and administrative hassle in maintaining multiple sets, while also making the policies more accessible to the public.
 - d. As the Governance Committee works through the policies – we will seek administrative comment and compare our policies with the current IASB version. We will then bring policies forward to the board in sets, with recommended changes noted. We expect that the changes will be largely non-substantive – but we will attempt to highlight any areas of concern we may discover.
 - e. To begin, we will work on Series 100 and Series 200 this year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.