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Duties

The Board's work for the benefit of students and the community will include:

- a. Establishing and maintaining connections with the public regarding issues impacting public education;
- b. Reviewing and recommending education policy on an ongoing basis;
- c. Hiring and evaluating the Superintendent, including holding the Superintendent accountable to the terms of the contract and annually set goals;
- d. Enacting Board governance policies that include Superintendent parameters/responsibilities, Board/Superintendent/Staff Relations, and the Board's own means to support its governance role;
- e. Making decisions based on clear data and significant and relevant monitoring information pertinent to District operations;
- f. Approving a District budget with revenue and spending parameters and a financial performance monitoring process;
- g. Reviewing and accepting administrative rules as they support the policies established by the Board; and
- h. Establishing a process to appoint an interim Superintendent to ensure that District business is conducted during an extended planned or unplanned absence of the Superintendent.

Board Member Duties and Responsibilities

Individual Board members shall:

- Keep the Superintendent and fellow Board members advised of community reaction to the school program and to school policies;
- Listen to citizens with questions, comments, and complaints, referring them to an appropriate member of the school staff in accordance with the policies of the Board;
- Refer personal requests and criticisms by employees directly to the appropriate administrative office and/or union official in accordance with the policies of the Board;

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- Act on the selection, assignment, transfer, promotion, demotion, or dismissal of school personnel, both certified and non-certified, only after submission of a recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools;
- Participate in county, regional, state, and national associations of school board members;
- Hold the Superintendent responsible for acceptable standards and results in the operation of the school system;
- Be responsible for their own behavior and consequences;
- Not undermine the leadership of the President and take only those actions which are congruent with policy;
- Observe Parliamentary procedure, deferring to the President when clarity of procedure is needed;
- Respect the authority of the President;
- Not bypass the authority and/or role of the President;
- Communicate directly with the President regarding performance issues; and
- Inform the President or Superintendent of additional agenda items prior to the Board meeting.

Governing Philosophies

In governing on behalf of a quality education for all students within the Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Board of Education's decisions and policy-making will be founded on the principles listed below:

- a. Fostering and modeling an atmosphere of respect for human dignity and the talents and contributions of all persons;
- b. Providing a system of accountability for delivering quality education that can be measured;
- c. Putting students' needs first by making decisions with a sense of honesty, sincerity, fairness, and integrity;
- d. Striving to meet the needs of all children through decision-making based on an equitable distribution of resources;
- e. Listening to hear the words and intentions of all who speak;

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- f. Putting what we learn and do into a system perspective; and
- g. Compromising and collaborating to achieve the goal of a quality education for all students of the GRPS.

The Board may exercise the above legal powers and duties only when convened in a legally constituted meeting.

Approved: June 29, 2009

Revised: May 15, 2017

LEGAL REF: Michigan Constitution, Article VIII; MCL 380.10, 380.11 *et seq.*