

# Jefferson County Board of Education

## Operating Principles

# Preamble

The Jefferson County Board of Education recognizes its role and responsibility to create and sustain a quality school district for the Louisville community, with the continuous improvement of student achievement as its primary goal. To develop and sustain high performance for Jefferson County Public Schools, the Board directs its work on policy making, planning, and evaluation of district performance.

# Preamble

As elected officials, we work together, aligned to a common mission and shared goals. We expect high standards of behavior and performance from ourselves and from others in the JCPS community. To ensure unity and effective leadership, we use these operating principles to guide our conduct, practices and performance.

# Board and Superintendent Leadership

To achieve our vision and best serve the students and community, the Jefferson County Board of Education and the Superintendent work as a leadership team. In complementary roles of policy governance and district management, we operate in collaborative partnership.

Therefore,

# Board and Superintendent Leadership

1. We understand that the Board derives its authority only when it operates as a body. We will not take unilateral action.
2. We build and maintain a culture of trust and team work. Each should be honest and forthright in dealing with one another.
3. We adhere to a practice of 'no surprises' for Board members or the Superintendent.

# Decision-Making

The Jefferson County Board of Education makes decisions that are first and foremost in the best interests of students and enhance the quality of programs and services in the Jefferson County Public Schools.

Therefore,

# Decision-Making

4. We ask for and expect recommendations to the Board are based on evidence data and best practices.

5. We engage in robust deliberations to debate issues with one another and with the superintendent prior to making decisions. We ask hard questions and critically evaluate all implications of our decisions.

6. We honor and support decisions of the majority while respecting the right of individual members to express opposing viewpoints and vote their convictions.

# Communication

The Jefferson County Board of Education understands that clear, consistent and frequent communication contributes to unity and synergy around shared goals for the district as a whole.

Therefore,



# Communication

7. We work through the superintendent to address concerns, complaints and need for information. The entire Board will then be informed.

8. We expect that all Board members will be uniformly informed of matters pertinent to the Board's work, issues, and pending recommendations.

# Communication

9. We recognize an official voice of the Board and allow the Board Chair, and in his/her absence, the Vice–Chair, to speak for and about the Board, its decisions, positions, and work. Individual Board members may always share their individual viewpoint but must clarify that they are speaking for themselves, rather than the entire Board.

10. To interact in a way with the media and public to preserve the integrity of Board processes and decisions.

# Community Relations

The Jefferson County Board of Education recognizes that the community has aspirations for its school system. The Board, with the Superintendent, is the community's leading advocate for students, parents, staff, and the enterprise of the Jefferson County Public Schools.

Therefore,

# Community Relations

11. We champion the work of the schools and are public education ambassadors.

12. We engage the community by soliciting input, listening to perspectives, and providing regular and relevant feedback to the community on the needs, achievements, and challenges facing the school district.

**Approved:**

**December 12, 2011**