

SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE RETREAT
JULY 14-15, 2017**

BOARD GOVERNANCE

The act of transforming the needs, wishes and desires of the community into policies that direct the community's schools.

THREE REALITIES

1. One becomes a board member as an individual but serves as a member of a team.
2. Board members do not have authority as an individual to fix the problems they believe need to be fixed.
3. Success as a board member is inextricably tied to the success of their board.

LEADERSHIP ROLES OF THE BOARD

- Set clear and high expectations.
- Create the conditions for success.
- Hold the system accountable.
- Create the public will to succeed.
- Learn as a board team.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

- Purpose – vision, mission, goals
- Role of the board – oversight
- Board culture – how your team works
- Structure and process – what your team does



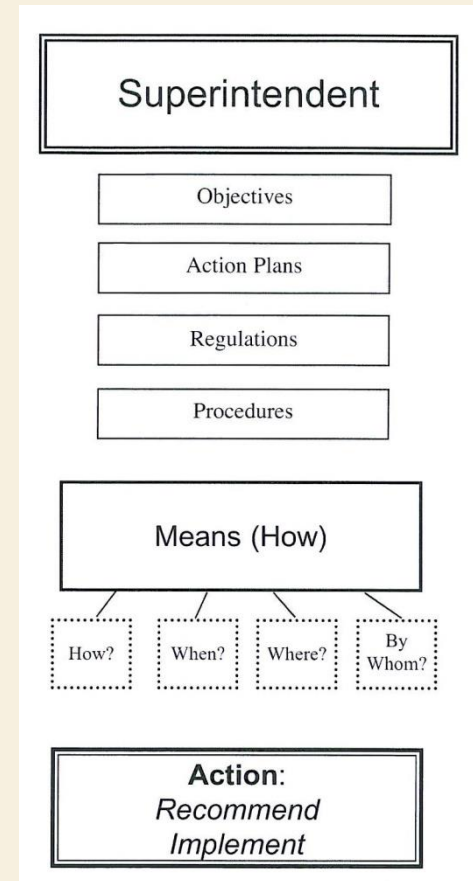
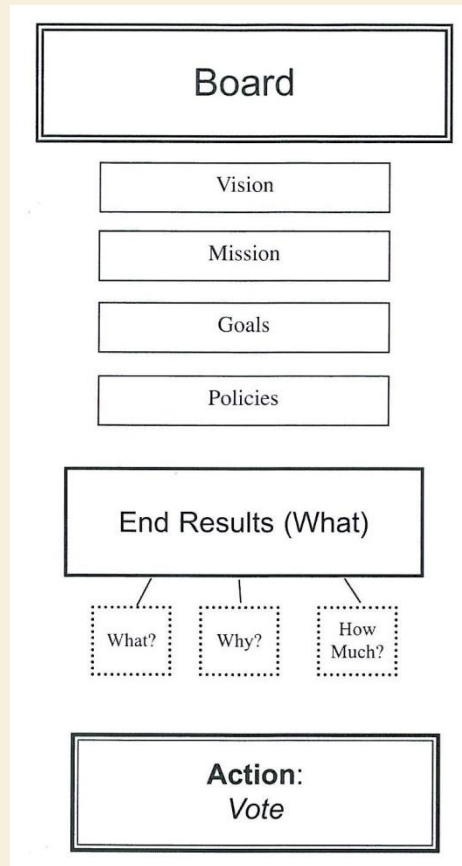
EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

A Board that Governs

and

A Superintendent that Administers

Board and Superintendent Team



TRUST ♦ COMMUNICATION ♦ LEADERSHIP

ROLE OF THE BOARD

How do we as board members
exercise our responsibilities for
oversight without becoming
micro-managers?

MICROMANAGEMENT

Simply....

When board members attempt to do a job that someone in the district is paid to do.

MICROMANAGEMENT HAPPENS WHEN...

1. There is a lack of consensus on district focus and goals.
2. The board and superintendent fail to communicate.
3. The board and superintendent lack clarity of their roles.
4. There are personality conflicts between the board and the superintendent.
5. There is a low level of trust between the board and the superintendent or between board members.
6. The superintendent is seen as a subordinate rather than a partner.
7. The board is divided or special interests pull the board apart.
8. The board team does not have a clear structure or expectations for behavior.

EFFECTIVE SCHOOL BOARDS

Understand

- The district's vision, policies and guidelines.
- The conditions of the teaching and learning environment in their district.
- The aspirations and expectation of all the students and their parents.
- Recognize the distinctions between board and staff roles.
- Refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the superintendent and staff.

Why?

- So they can hold the system accountable for results.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

- Listen, hear and understand positions that are different from their own.
- Respectfully express beliefs and opinions, but have the ability to compromise when necessary.
- Maintain respectful relationships with other board members in carrying out their leadership responsibilities.
- Use good ethical and moral judgment in all decision-making.
- Stay current on education issues by attending training and other board development activities.
- Be flexible and realize there are times when changes must be made, when tradition cannot be honored and when pressure must be ignored.



Jean Crowley
Board Team Development
jean.crowley@ksba.org
800-372-2962