

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that has.” - Margaret Meade

Londonderry, New Hampshire residents elect the School Board to serve its community and state in overseeing the most important function of all of local and state government-public education. To that end, it is appropriate to constantly remind ourselves of a proper and appropriate “Procedural Agreement” for the local School Board members in performing this important service to Londonderry and to the youth of New Hampshire. Good Boards facilitate the work of the Superintendent, allowing them to concentrate on programs for improving student achievement. We therefore resolve to:

- Be in compliance with all national, state and local laws/regulations pertaining to education and public agencies.
- Make all decisions and take all actions with the well-being of our students as the fundamental guiding principle.
- Support the Board’s key roles in vision and goals, policy, best management practices, budget adoption, fiscal responsibility, communication and community engagement.
- Ensure that Board meetings and other Board work focus on improving student achievement and progress. Every student, regardless of ability, will have the opportunity for a quality education.
- Assure that there is agreement on how the goals will be measured. The Board determines the data it needs to monitor progress toward goals and the compliance with its written policies. The Board will also have an understanding of the Superintendent’s recommendation(s) before rendering a decision.
- As trustee for the community, commit to an on-going, two-way communication with constituents about their aspirations for the education of the District’s students.
- Understand that the Superintendent is the Board’s only employee. The Board and Superintendent work together to fulfill their mutually complementary roles.
- Interact with each other and the Superintendent in a positive, constructive and beneficial manner.
- Not micromanage but rather delegate management functions, including personnel matters, to the Superintendent.
- Understand the organizational structure and the “chain of command” in order to avoid making personal requests from staff without prior Superintendent approval.
- Recognize that unless appropriately delegated by a majority of the Board, members have no authority beyond that exercised at the Board table.
- Abide by the majority Board opinion reached in good faith, even when personal views differ from this decision.
- Thoroughly prepare for all Board meetings and avoid raising “surprise” questions or issues.
- Contribute to having Board meeting operate in a dignified and professional manner in which everyone is treated with civility and respect.
- Disagree on issues while maintaining respect and trust for other Board members and the Superintendent.
- Respect the confidentiality on issues - personnel, pending litigation, contracts- that can be disclosed only during nonpublic sessions.
- If contacted by a parent or other citizen about an issue, recommend the proper “chain of command”.

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD

Adopted: March 29, 2005