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Minnewaska Area Schools Policy 215

Orig. 2006

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215 MINNEWASKA AREA SCHOOL BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT GROUND RULES FOR WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

1. In order to strengthen the internal decision-making process in the Minnewaska Area Schools, board members will route questions from citizens, teachers and administrators concerning internal operating issues in the schools to the appropriate staff personnel and alert the Superintendent that the referral was made.
2. Board committees will be used on topics where the full board involvement is not crucial; otherwise, the full board will be involved in the full discussion of important issues. Board committee recommendations shall be clearly communicated to the full board, reviewed, and received by the board.
3. The superintendent will contact the board chair and involve all board members as appropriate in discussion of issues. The superintendent shall prepare a regular, bi-weekly written board communication, containing details of the district's operation.
4. The board meeting agenda will be jointly owned by the board and the superintendent. The board chair and superintendent will review the agenda before each meeting.
5. The board chair and superintendent will communicate frequently, but not to the exclusion of other board members.
6. Every attempt shall be made to reach a consensus decision on important issues. When the consensus is not achieved and conflict persists, board members and superintendent will attempt to depersonalize issues. In addition, if a decision is made by voting, those who do not prevail will respect the decision made.
7. The superintendent will represent the district with the media. Board members agree to speak only for themselves with the media and to route agreed upon issues through the chairperson.
8. The superintendent will accompany board members to training sessions whenever possible to ensure that appropriate ideas are implemented as a result of the training.
9. The board and superintendent will informally evaluate themselves annually and redefine what is not working and reinforce what is going well. This, along with the superintendent's evaluation, will serve as a way of measuring success.
10. Board members will consult the superintendent on availability of staff/superintendent time before asking to do research or have meetings.

11. Neither the superintendent nor individual board members will make promises that involve board action to constituencies.
12. The board and superintendent shall schedule retreats and working sessions, as necessary, to accomplish the work of the board.
13. The board and superintendent mutually agree to prepare for meetings by reviewing materials, asking for clarification on issues, and avoiding surprises, when possible.