

DPS Board Orientation/Conversations

December 2017

Who are we? What do we want?

1. Tell us something about you, do you have family? What do you like to do for fun? What's your favorite book or movie? Why? Use the question ball for additional questions.
2. Why did you choose to be (become) a school board member? A member of the Administration?
3. What do you hope to accomplish in 2018? During your term? As an administrator?
4. What are the qualities you think are important in a school board member?
5. What are the qualities you think are important in a member of the administration?

Integrating the past and current with the future

1. How can we honor the past and integrate it into the future?
2. What is good that is happening in the District that we want to keep?
3. How can we honor those who have gone before us and build on what exists?
4. What is the best way to integrate our new ideas and excitement with those who have been here and brought us to this place?

Logistics

1. When do we meet? For what purpose?
2. How is information disseminated? Officially? Informally?
3. How can I feel heard?
4. How can I request and receive information?
5. Who is my "go to" contact?
6. Is there a mentor I can meet with to learn and reflect?
7. How do Board Members interact with the Administration? With individual schools? Teachers?
8. Who speaks for the Board? To the press? Etc.?
9. How is feedback given & received?
10. What is the purpose and role of the President of the Board? Vice President?
11. What is the role of the Superintendent, Treasurer, other administrators with the Board?
12. What is the role of the Board as compared to the role of administration?
 - a. Example models: Sinclair Model, Mary Connors presentation, Center for Public Education Study 2011

DPS Board Orientation/Conversations December 2017

13. How do you deal with being surprised when a parent, teacher or community leader says, "Did you know about X" and you've never heard about the incident?
 - a. Are there other scenarios that will make you feel uncomfortable?

Working Together

1. How can we effectively work together for the benefit of the students?

Effective Leaders:

Craft a vision
Build alignment
Champion execution

High Performance Teams:

Share a common vision
Experience open communication
Have a task orientation. Does what it takes to get it done
Supports innovation

iiChange Dialogue Process:

Show Mutual Respect
Communicate authentically to create trust
Appreciate diverse perspectives with curiosity
Use creativity to integrate ideas
Be tenacious about transformation

2. How do we move from being competitors during the election to becoming collaborative teammates?
3. Shall we create behavioral measures we agree govern how we will interact with each other?
4. How do we hold ourselves accountable to the measures we create?

What should we be talking about?

1. What strategic discussions should we be holding as a board for us to be effective leaders of our district?
 - a. Do our current goals reflect what we believe to be important?

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2. How do we hold ourselves accountable to the conversation?
 - a. Example: strategic conversations document, Role of a champion

Accountability

1. How do we hold ourselves accountable to our work?
 - a. Evaluation of School Board operational procedures document
 - b. Other evaluation instruments