

**GENEVA C.U.S.D. 304 BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKING AGREEMENTS**

**Approved October 12, 2010**

- A. The Board regards the creation of a vision and direction for the District to be a primary responsibility.
- B. The relationship between the Superintendent and any individual member of the Board of Education is collegial, not hierarchical.
- C. The Superintendent is accountable only to the full Board of Education.
- D. No Board Member or subset of the Board of Education has the authority to act or speak on behalf of the Board without consent by the Board.
- E. The Board and the Superintendent have the right to expect performance, candor and honesty from one another.
- F. Board Members represent the entire district community, not just a certain group.
- G. Board Members must respect the confidentiality of the executive session.
- H. Ideas should be judged as more important than the person who expresses the idea.
- I. The Board as a whole, and each Member, must accept responsibility for Board process and effectiveness.
- J. The Board as a whole will, over the long run, make better decisions than individual Board Members.
- K. Making staff decisions trivializes the Board's job, interferes with staff ownership, and reduces the degree to which the staff can be held accountable. Therefore, Board Members will refrain from advising staff in operational areas.
- L. Board Members on the losing sides of a motion will not sabotage the action; individuals on both sides of an issue will respect their Board colleagues.
- M. The Superintendent's powers should be used to the fullest, bounded, of course, by the perimeters set by the Board.
- N. The Superintendent has a right to expect the Board to be clear about rules and stick to them, with no fragmentation of its voice. Consequently, the Superintendent is bound to honor only majority Board expectations.
- O. Contact the Board President or Superintendent by the Tuesday before the meeting to put an item on the agenda.
- P. Call the Superintendent with issues or questions rather than stepping out of "Board Work" and taking care of the problem yourself.
- Q. Continue the practice of having the Board President speak for the Board and answer e-mail directed to the Board.
- R. Support placing non-confidential information from *Week-in-Review* on the district website and call attention to new information.
- S. When possible, abide by the "No Surprises" rule.
- T. When possible, explain the reason behind a "no" vote.
- U. Articulate at the meeting why you are asking a question, and weigh the amount of staff time needed for the answer against the importance of having the answer.
- V. When a Board Member requests information, the Superintendent or his designee will provide the request and answer to all Board Members.