

DESCRIPTOR TERM: School District Organization and Governance	Millard District Policy File Code: 1030 Approved: 09-08-22
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BOARD OPERATIONAL GOALS

Purpose/Philosophy

Local school boards exemplify American principles of representative democracy. Ultimately accountable to their public, local school boards act as community decision-making agencies for the public schools. Moreover, on behalf of local public schools, school boards represent their community to local, state, and national agencies. It is the strong conviction of the Millard Board of Education that the needs of public education and the citizenry can best be met when control of the schools rests with a lay board. This board believes that:

1. **Standards of Local Board Operations.** School boards should function in a nonpartisan, broadly representative, team-spirited manner. Every member of a school board should represent open-mindedly the entire school district, and consequently, must let his or her consideration for the entire district take precedence over every form of partisanship and special interest—political, racial, religious, geographic, economic, social, civic, or other. Boards should also strive to achieve the best educational system possible with the monies available, and to react to changes and demands placed upon the board by the taxpayers.
2. **Open Board Meetings and Public Information.** School boards should conduct school district business in open session, except as otherwise provided by law, and endeavor by every possible means to inform the public concerning the schools.
3. **Written Policy: Adoption and Execution.** School boards should adopt clearly defined written policies based on a thorough understanding of the educational process. In formulating the policies, they should consult individuals and groups affected by the policies, and properly delegate execution of those policies to employed professional administrators.
4. **Service to Students.** The individual needs and interests of the students will be the uppermost factors to keep in mind in making policy decisions, or arriving at solutions to problems.
5. **Financial Independence.** The board will promote efforts to assure the financial stability and independence of the district from unwanted federal mandates. Local governance should be of greatest value in the education of our children. This level of stability would provide the opportunity, should mandates be handed down from a federal level, that the board could reject such mandates without hardships on students or families.