



Queen Creek Unified School District

Governing Board Norms and Protocols



Communication – Communication between the staff and board is encouraged as long as it follows board policy. The senior leadership team recognizes that 'good, timely, open, and constant' communication regarding school district issues is extremely important. We will strive to anticipate issues which may become important or are sensitive to our school district and district stakeholders (BHC). Agree to respectfully disagree. Respect the professional expertise of staff, acknowledge fellow members, and recognize those with dissenting viewpoints.

- Agree to respectfully disagree
- Civility with all others.
- Timely responses to board member requests (yes or no).
- Board President lead point for communication.
- Avoid personal attacks.
- Recognize the board's statutory duties.

Follow the Chain of Command - The last stop, not the first, will be the board. We agree to follow the chain of command and insist that others do so. While the board is eager to listen to its constituents, the board will insist that everyone follow this procedure. For staff and community members, each inquiry is to be referred to the person who can properly and expeditiously address the issue. Board requests that will likely require considerable time or have political implications are to be directed to the superintendent. All personnel complaints and criticisms received by the board or its individual members will be directed to the superintendent. (BHD) (CCB)

- Be conscientious of your response (two sides to every story).
- Build relationships of trust between Board and Administration.
- Open promises are not made.

Meeting Protocol - Behaviors at all board meetings is important. We desire to have a legacy of a well-functioning, effective board. We agree to avoid words and actions that create negative impression on an individual, the board or the district. We will be open minded and willing to 'listen for understanding' to various presenters/speakers. We agree to disagree with courtesy and respect for all viewpoints.

- Respect for each other and presenters at all meetings.
- Attend meetings.
- Let all members' voice opinion, not needing to get in the last word.

Practice Efficient Decision-Making - To be efficient and effective, long board meetings will be avoided. The board will strive to run meetings where decision-making, action, and votes are efficient. If a board member believes she/he doesn't have enough information or has questions, further discussion/dialogue will occur before the meeting occurs. Review board reports in detail and make every effort to use internal communication to be prepared for meetings.

- Come to the meetings prepared; read documents, ask questions prior to meeting.

Board Acts as a Body - Individual board members do not have authority. Only the board as a whole has authority. We agree that an individual board member will not take unilateral action. The board president will communicate the position(s) of the board on controversial issues. When board members serve on various school committees, their role shall be defined by the board as silent observer or active participant (BBAA) Board members should not speak for the board without authorization.

- Fewer individual requests from Board members to Superintendent/Staff.
- Professionalism towards other board members.