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About this Session

- Why governance standards?
- How standards can help
- Concerns
- Recommendations
 - Governance Priorities
 - Governance Protocols
 - Governance Processes

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The Governance Standards Task Force

- The VSBA emailed all local board members on August 4, 2022, asking for volunteers to serve on the standards task force.
- The VSBA President selected a board member from each region and appointed Mark Koenig as the chair.
- The task force discussed options for moving forward and reviewed a research-informed first draft for standards.
- They received input from Secretary French, Dr. Ivan Lorentzen, Superintendent Sheila Soule, and representatives from VSA.
- Members shared practices and templates.

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Three Broad Areas

- Governance Priorities
- Governance Protocols
- Governance Processes

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Definitions

Governance - system by which entities are directed and controlled including structure, processes for decision making, accountability, how objectives are set and achieved, how risk is monitored and addressed, and how performance is optimized. (adapted from governancetoday.com)

Priorities - decided understanding of what is most important to accomplish.

Protocols - agreed norms of behavior and interactions to promote transparency, predictability, and functional group dynamics.

Processes - established structures to support consistency, clear expectations, organization and shared understanding for how the work will be accomplished.

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Governance Priorities – Through an equity lens, the board adopts a vision and measurable goals to support continuous improvement and monitors student academic progress and wellness.

- A. The board follows an inclusive process to invite and incorporate community input into the vision and goals for the school system.
- B. At least annually, the board sets measurable goals and regularly reviews the progress toward those goals.
- C. At least annually, the board monitors student academic progress and wellness.
- D. At least annually, the board formally evaluates the performance of the superintendent, based in part on the superintendent's progress toward meeting agreed upon goals.

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Governance Protocols – The board adopts, reviews annually, and revises as needed, Operating Protocols for how it does its work, and annually reads foundational documents such as articles of agreement.

- A. The board annually assesses its performance, including adherence to agreed norms, protocols, procedures, and policies; reviews how it contributed to the school system's success in meeting goals; and evaluates the effectiveness of community engagement and public communication.
- B. The board is dedicated to its own continuous learning and development and provides members with opportunities for ongoing training and support to maintain and increase their skills and understanding.

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Governance Processes – The board establishes and follows inclusive, transparent, and predictable methods to conduct its work.

- A. The board discusses, adopts, and revises policies on a regular basis to ensure the system is supporting and meeting the needs of every student.
- B. The board ensures its annual budget aligns with its stated priorities and provides an equitable distribution of resources to help meet the needs and goals of every student.
- C. The board ensures its members are aware of conditions set forth in negotiated agreements and contracts.

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Governance Processes (cont.)

- D. The board ensures its members understand and comply with Vermont statutes and regulations relevant to board work and public education.
- E. The board apprises its members of proposed legislation and policy-making that may affect their school system and students.
- F. The board maintains an ongoing relationship with locally elected officials.

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Opportunities for Input

- The VSBA newsletter and emails to members announced this work.
- Survey of local school board members and superintendents.
- Discussions and input during VSBA Fall Regional Meetings.
- Input during this conference session.
- Recommendations to the VSBA Board prior to November 3.
- Public input during state rulemaking process.

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