


SCHOOL BOARD or ADMINISTRATION?




Who does what in a school district




WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



To be an effective advocate, you have to know not just what you're advocating **for**, you have to know who to advocate **to**. Who has the power to make the change- the **school board** or the **administration**?



When deciding **who to vote for** during a school board election, you need to know whether the changes candidates say they'll make are actually part of a school board member's job.



To have **well-functioning school districts**, everyone must understand their role and stick to it. When school board members & administrators adhere to the distinction between governance and management, they can maintain a healthy relationship, get their work done, and improve **student achievement**.



It's our job to **hold our elected officials accountable**. In order to hold school board members accountable, you have to know what they do- and don't do!

SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN: WHO DOES WHAT

SCHOOL BOARD

- **Governs** the district
- Determines the **what**- the big picture

ADMINISTRATION

- **Manages** the district
- Determines the **how**- the day-to-day operations



SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN: WHO DOES WHAT

The school board & administration co-create the **vision and priorities** for the district.

SCHOOL BOARD

Governs - “What”

The school board establishes policies and fiscal practices in line with that vision & direction.

ADMINISTRATION

Manages- “How”

The admin is responsible for allocating resources & managing the day-to-day operations of the district.



SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN

WHO DOES WHAT : **POLICY-MAKING**

SCHOOL BOARD

Governs - “What”

Creates or amends policies in alignment with the co-created vision, and is responsible for oversight.

ADMINISTRATION

Manages- “How”

Implements the board policies, creating practices and procedures.

EXAMPLE: District attendance policy

“The purpose of the policy is to outline acceptable purposes for which a student may be excused from school to allow for the appropriate recording of student attendance and the ability of the District to determine students who are truant.”

- Communicates to families what to do if their child has to miss school
- Sets procedures for school staff to know how and when to mark a student absent
- Reports to the correct authorities if a student is truant.

SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN

WHO DOES WHAT : BUDGET & FINANCES

SCHOOL BOARD

Governs - “What”

Approves and manages the budget, ensuring the district is a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

ADMINISTRATION

Manages- “How”

Allocates financial and personnel resources in equitable and effective ways.



SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN

WHO DOES WHAT : CURRICULUM

SCHOOL BOARD

Governs - “What”

Approves curriculum, including textbooks.

ADMINISTRATION

Manages- “How”

Makes curricula and textbook recommendations aligned with the values of the district.



SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN

WHO DOES WHAT : **HIRING & EVALUATING PEOPLE**

SCHOOL BOARD

Governs - “What”

Recruits, hires, and evaluates the Superintendent

(and sometimes other roles like the Treasurer, General Counsel, or Internal Auditor).

ADMINISTRATION

Manages- “How”

Recruits, hires, and evaluates all staff except the Superintendent (and in some districts, the Treasurer, General Counsel, or Internal Auditor.)



SCHOOL BOARD & ADMIN

WHO DOES WHAT : **COMMUNITY**

SCHOOL BOARD

Governs - “What”

Represents YOU- the community- and reports to you!

The board represents, engages, and informs the community about policies and decisions of the district.


ADMINISTRATION

Manages- “How”

Engages and informs the community about policies, practices, and procedures of the district.



SUM IT UP!



To be an effective advocate, you have to know who owns what in the decision-making structure of a school district.

SCHOOL BOARD

=

Governs

=

the What

=

the Big Picture

ADMINISTRATION

=

Manages

=

the How

=

the Day-to-Day Operations