

Policy Type: Governance Process

Board Committee Principles

Board committees, when used, will be used to support the work of the Board as described in Policy GP-3, to reinforce the wholeness of the Board's job, and never to interfere with delegation of authority from the Board to the Director.

Accordingly:

1. Board committees are to assist the Board to do its job, not to direct or advise the staff. Committees ordinarily will assist the Board by preparing policy alternatives, implications or recommendations for Board consideration. Consistent with the Board's broader focus, Board committees will not have authority over staff.
2. Board committees may not speak or act for the Board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes. Committee expectations and authority will be stated carefully by the Board in policy to assure that committee authority will not conflict with authority delegated to the Director.
3. Board committees may not exercise authority over the Director or staff. Because the Director works for the full Board, any direction to the Director related to a committee recommendation will come from the full Board.
4. Board committees are expected to avoid over-identification with organizational parts rather than the whole. Therefore, a Board committee that has helped the Board create policy will not be used to monitor organizational performance on that same activity.
5. This policy applies only to committees that are formed by Board action, whether or not the committees include Board members. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the Director.
6. All Board committee meetings are open to the public

Adopted: 4/22/03

Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in December

Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education