

Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

Becoming a Trustee Workshop 2021



Strategic Priorities

- ◆ Foster healthy, inclusive, respectful, and safe learning environments. Promote the social, emotional, and intellectual growth of all community members.
- ◆ Inspire academic growth and civic responsibility through a rigorous, inquiry-based curriculum that is engaging and personalized.
- ◆ Attract, cultivate, and retain innovative, inspirational educators.
- ◆ Sustain the fiscal integrity and stability of the district.
- ◆ Facilitate collaborative partnerships between students, families, schools, and community.

A Day in the Life of a Trustee (or week or month)

- ◆ Board meetings – 10-14 meetings per year
- ◆ 2-3 special board workshops
- ◆ Board agendas published on Friday before Board meeting
- ◆ Individual meetings with Superintendent before Board meeting to review agenda items

Trustee tasks

- ◆ Prepare for Board meetings
 - Review agenda and all attached documents
 - Send any questions to Superintendent
 - Prepare for discussion with Board
 - Review any communications sent to Board

Trustee tasks

- ◆ During Board meetings
 - Listen carefully to presentations and fellow trustees
 - Ask questions to understand
 - Engage in constructive discussion on discussion or action items
 - Listen carefully to public comment
 - Vote on action items

Trustee Tasks

- ◆ Represent Board to the community, and reflect community concerns back to the Board
 - Attend school, district, and county committees and events
 - Be an advocate for public education and our schools
 - Support effective and transparent communication

Always be aware of and follow:

- ◆ Brown Act
- ◆ Maintain confidentiality
- ◆ Board communication protocols
- ◆ Board governance norms

Trustee Areas of Understanding

- ◆ Budget – trends, components of revenue and expenses, calendar, projections, and reserves
- ◆ LCAP – goals and actions
- ◆ Special Education
- ◆ Student achievement and professional development

2021-24 LCAP Goals

- ◆ **Equity:** Close or narrow the equity gap for student groups (English Learner, special education, BIPOC, and socioeconomically disadvantaged).
- ◆ **Academic Growth:** Increase academic achievement in mathematics and English language arts above the rate of similar schools for all students with a focus on narrowing the achievement gap for subgroups through best-practices in personalized learning and a multi-tiered system of supports.
- ◆ **Wellness & Connectedness:** A comprehensive wellness program will be maintained and improved, which includes social-emotional learning, campus and student safety, growth mindset, and a well rounded course of study.

Effective trustees keep learning and achievement for all students as their primary focus.

- ◆ They do not represent one group, one agenda, one program.
- ◆ They understand their school district must serve every child equally well.
- ◆ They stay focused on the strategic goals of the district.

Effective trustees keep focused on the long range strategic goals of the district.

- ◆ They are not distracted by day-to-day issues.
- ◆ Their agenda stays focused on the important issues, not administrative issues that they employ staff to handle.

Effective trustees understand that how you govern is often more important than what you do or say.

- ◆ They act with dignity and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior.

Effective trustees always...

- ◆ do their homework,
- ◆ work hard,
- ◆ commit the time and energy required to be effective, and
- ◆ think about the future and understand trends and the needs of students.

Three Realities

1. You campaign as an individual but serve as a member of a team.
2. You do not have the authority as an individual to fix the problems you campaigned to fix.
3. Your success as a board member is inextricably tied to the success of your board.

Governance

The act of transforming the needs, wishes and desires of the community into policies that direct the community's schools.

The Board's Responsibilities

1. We set the direction.
2. We establish the structure.
3. We provide support.
4. We ensure accountability.
5. We act as community leaders.

Setting Direction

- ◆ Goals and success indicators for the superintendent
- ◆ Expectations for student learning
- ◆ Priorities for the budget
- ◆ Parameters for the collective bargaining agreement

Structure set by the Board

- ◆ Adopt the budget
- ◆ Adopt policies
- ◆ Curriculum framework
- ◆ Collective bargaining agreement
- ◆ Human resources framework
- ◆ Board meeting agenda

Board Support of the District

- ◆ Create a climate of excellence
- ◆ Support the staff in carrying out the board's direction
- ◆ Encourage district efforts
- ◆ Champion district progress
- ◆ Develop and follow communications plan
- ◆ Ask the right questions
- ◆ Take actions that support district goals

Accountability of the Board

- ◆ Superintendent evaluation
- ◆ Budget-program alignment
- ◆ Board self-evaluation

Community Leadership by the Board

- ◆ Communications plan
- ◆ Key messages
- ◆ District newsletters, website