

# Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

## Becoming a Trustee Workshop 2020



# LCMSD Mission

Larkspur-Corte Madera School District is a dynamic learning community. We are inspired to think critically, collaborate, encourage creativity, and communicate effectively in supportive and inclusive environments. Every individual is empowered to become a productive citizen through relevant, rigorous, and engaging curriculum, active partnerships, and authentic interdisciplinary learning experiences.

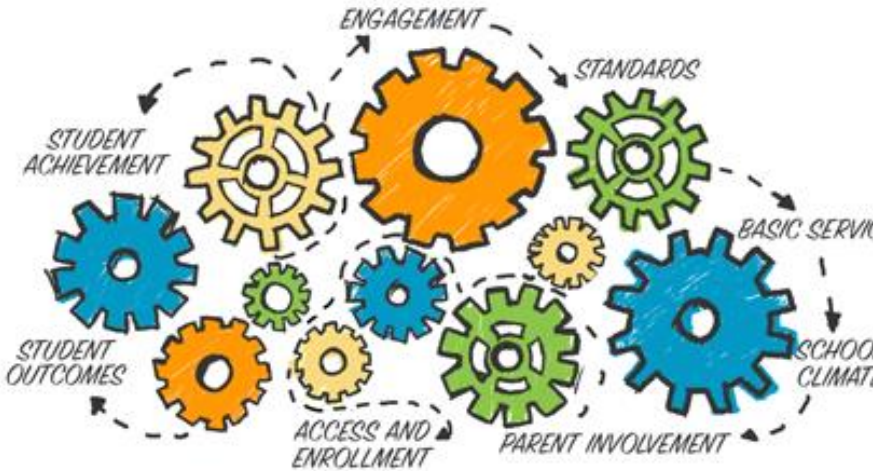
# Strategic Priorities

- ◆ 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.

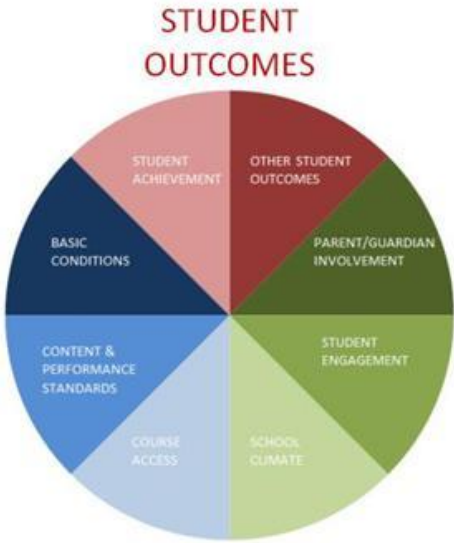
# 8 State Priorities

# LCAP

LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN



CONDITIONS OF LEARNING



ENGAGEMENT

# LCMSD LCAP Goals

1. Improve student engagement, health, well-being and connectedness to school.
2. Ensure continuous improvement, achievement and equitable and inclusive access to standards-aligned English, Math, Science, Social Science, Arts, Physical Education and Digital Literacy for all students.
3. All teachers will demonstrate improvement in professional standards and participate in effective Professional Development and Learning Opportunities. District will recruit and retain excellent teachers/learning leaders to fill vacancies
4. Leverage and align district resources with student improvement and LCAP goals. Maintain equitable class size distribution. Maintain outstanding facilities, leveraging new facilities for innovative learning
5. Develop and improve communication, participation, and articulation among and schools, district, parents, community.

# Draft LCAP Goals

- ◆ **Equity:** Close or narrow the equity gap for student groups (English Learner, special education, Hispanic/Latino, 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.

# The CSBA Professional Governance Standards

The Individual Trustee

# The Effective Trustee

1. Mindfulness
2. Focus
3. Manner
4. Preparation
5. Commitment
6. Confidentiality



## Mindful Means:

- ◆ Understanding the nature and power of governance
- ◆ Understanding the board role – and staying within it
- ◆ Understanding and committing to the effectiveness of the board

“The very essence of a free government consists in considering offices as public trusts, bestowed for the good of the country, and not for the benefit of an individual or a party.”

- *John C. Calhoun*

“When a man assumes a public trust,  
he should consider himself as public  
property.”

- *Thomas Jefferson*

# 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.

# Balancing Act

- ◆ Serving each child
- ◆ Governance team
- ◆ Laws and regulations
- ◆ Stakeholder interests
- ◆ District resources
- ◆ District beliefs
- ◆ Vision
- ◆ Goals
- ◆ My own beliefs and values
- ◆ Modeling civic responsibility

# The CSBA Professional Governance Standards

The Board

# Essential Conditions/Building Blocks of Effective Board Governance

1. Unity of Purpose
2. Role of the Board
3. Board Culture
4. Structure and Process

# 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.

# What do we mean by setting direction?

*The intent of setting direction is to ensure the values, beliefs, desires of the community are captured in the district beliefs and vision and are reflected in all documents that focus and drive district efforts.*

# What are the board's setting direction actions/documents?

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

# What do we mean by structure?

*The board is responsible for establishing and maintaining an organizational structure that supports the district's vision and empowers the professional staff.*



# What are the board's structure actions/documents?

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

# What do we mean by support?

*Through their behavior and actions, boards have a responsibility to support the superintendent and staff as they carry out the direction of the board.*

# What are the board's support actions/documents?

- ◆ 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

# What do we mean by accountability?

- ◆ Boards are accountable to the public for the performance of the community's schools.
- ◆ Boards establish systems, monitor results, evaluate progress, and communicate that progress to the public.

# What are the board's accountability actions/documents?

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

# What do we mean by community leadership?

*Board members have a responsibility to involve the community in meaningful ways, and speak out on behalf of the school district's educational programs and public education.*

# What are the board's community leadership actions/documents?

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

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- *Margaret Mead*