



Union Day School Board Governance FAQ

What is a Board?

A board is an organized group of *unpaid volunteers* who, collectively, are legally and morally accountable to the community for the health, vitality, and effectiveness of the school. The board is the primary force pressing the organization to realize the mission and vision of the organization.

The board is also responsible for ensuring the organization upholds its charter and fulfills its obligations to its constituencies.

What is governance?

Governance is the distribution of legitimate authority to influence and enact policies and decisions; it defines who has the power, who is in charge and who is responsible; its primary roles are setting the direction, ensuring adequate resources and overseeing the health of the organization.

What are bylaws?

Bylaws are the rules that govern the internal management of an organization. They are written by the organization's founders and were formed at the incorporation phase of our nonprofit charter school. Bylaws are reviewed annually and updated if necessary. All changes to bylaws are reported to the local charter school authorizing body.

Are charter school board members elected publicly?

No - charter schools elect (and re-elect) their members by board vote in accordance with their bylaws.

What are typical committees found on the UDS school Board?

Since board members are volunteers much of the business necessary to be performed is done on board committees. These committees meet to discuss specific topics important to the

organization and report back to the board. Some committees we have on the UDS board are as follows: finance, curriculum, marketing, human resources, etc.

Is the school leader also a board member?

No the school leader is not a board member and does not have board voting rights.

Does every charter school board have parent representatives?

UDS currently has two parents who are founding board members. Our bylaws do not allow for additional parent board members.

What sort of decisions does a board make for the school?

The board votes on strategic decisions that affect the academic, fiscal, and organizational health and sustainability of the organization. The issues they face can range from acquiring a new facility, renewing leases, hiring, firing, approving budgets, expansion or relinquishing of the charter.

What is Open Meeting Law?

Open meeting laws refer to the legal requirements of a public entity to open its meetings to the public. Open meeting laws vary but there are specific rules that apply to all. UDS follows open meeting laws.

What is the purpose of a Board Meeting ?

The board conducts meetings, following Robert's Rules of Order, for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the school. The meetings are not public hearing meetings but are meetings held in public.

When can the public participate?

Public participation is permitted only as indicated on the agenda and at the discretion of the board. The board receives public comment via email prior to the board meeting. All comments will be read into the meeting notes. Emergency or special called meetings do not typically have public comments scheduled. This is at the discretion of the board chair.

The board enjoys hearing from stakeholders and we welcome their comments, but procedurally, it is not the board's role to respond or comment during this time.

Where can I find the board meeting schedule, agendas and minutes?

The board section of our website has the yearly schedule (subject to change), the agenda posted 48 hours prior to the meeting and “approved” minutes from past board meetings. Minutes from previous meetings are approved at regularly scheduled board meetings and posted within 48 hours from board approval.

Does the UDS Board have to follow the decisions of the local school board?

The UDS board does not have to follow the local school district when making decisions for our students. UDS has several counties represented within the school community. Although the school physically resides in Union County, the school operates completely independently from UCPS.