

February 2021

# ECASB VARIETY

## Six Best Practices of Highly Effective Boards - A Resource from SuperEval

School Boards, no matter the size of the district, are faced with unique challenges. Even those boards that are cohesive and well functioning have had challenges during these unprecedented times. By working towards these 6 practices, the board can become a stronger and better functioning board.

### 1. Set a Clear Vision Statement and Set Annual Goals -

No matter what your defined purpose and goals are. If you don't have one, one should be created that guides the board's action. Goals should help identify a challenge or issue or address areas of opportunity for higher achievement. Review your progress at reaching these goals throughout the year at school board meetings. Celebrate the successes. Know when you are moving closer to the goals and when you are off track.

### 2. Commit to High Expectations for Student Achievement -

No matter where your students and school falls on the spectrum of academic excellence, make sure that every program you initiate, and every decision you make is based on the commitment to achieving higher academic standards. Successful school boards never stop challenging themselves and raising the bar higher. At each and every meeting, are you looking at a component of academic performance and looking at ways they can be improved?

### 3. Prioritize Professional Development Opportunity for Your Staff -

Our staff is the cornerstone of the district's academic success. You need to push and challenge your staff to reach their highest level of performance. There needs to be continued learning and growth, not just by the students, but by the staff as well. Find out from your employees what type of training they need to get to the next level. Once you



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*Where professional development,  
leadership & advocacy meet.*

have identified the training necessary, whether it be technology support or support for assisting students with their social and emotional needs, provide the appropriate professional development and the time needed necessary for staff to be able to address the areas of need.

#### **4. Be Transparent -**

School Boards need to maintain open lines of communication and operation with transparency to foster trust and openness between the school board and district leaders.

Distribute all school board meeting minutes, share progressive updates, maintain a welcome position with members of the media and be open to answering questions - even on the most challenging and diverse topics in the community.

#### **5. Do Not Lose Sight of Your Schools Financial Health -**

The best programs and ideas will go nowhere if the funding and infrastructure is not present. Provide updates to the community on student achievement and the success to gain support of the community. If the community sees progress being made, they are more apt to support the board in it's mission.

#### **6. Collaborate With The Community -**

Effective Boards maintain open communication with community leaders. Let your students, their families and community as a whole become the advocates for your district. School Board members will change over the years from term to term. It is important that the board as a whole, have a foundation that allows for high performance long term.

#### **Final Thought:**

High or improved student achievement and success in the district begins with the Board of Education. It is essential that the Board of Education take the time to evaluate their own progress on a yearly basis. There are many resources available to Boards of Education to ensure they have a thorough and complete evaluation tool in place to be able improve their overall performance.

