

## **2.1000 EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Legal Reference: Open Meetings Law: C.R.S. 24-6-401 through 402

Cross Reference: Falls Lake Academy, Inc. By-Laws

### **A. Governance**

Falls Lake Academy shall be governed by its Board of Directors. The chief administrator of Falls Lake Academy shall answer directly to the board and serve at the pleasure of the board. The Principal shall make decisions on a day-to-day basis and fulfill all administrative duties for the school. The Board will maintain the vision and steer the school's direction as it carries out the Mission Statement.

As with all charter schools, Falls Lake Academy is an entity separate from the local school district in the area of governance. This unique characteristic of charters shall be guarded by each Board member. Board members will not question any decision made by the Principal in any public arena. If a Board member questions a decision, he or she shall immediately take that concern or disagreement to the administrator in a confidential and diplomatic format. Likewise, the Principal shall agree to the same commitment. Respect for each other shall remain constant.

While at the school, Board members shall be mindful of the different roles they play: parent, volunteer, Board member, etc. A Board member will not use their position of authority while acting in their parent or volunteer roles. Board members shall foster good relationships with administrators and staff on a personal level. With humility, each Board member will serve the best interests of the school. Board members shall remember that stepping out of their advisory/Board member capacity and attempting to run the school as an administrator will always cause problems.

Falls Lake Academy Board members shall cultivate and maintain a firm belief in the educational plan of the school. Board members shall be fully committed to the charter school concept. The purpose of the Board of Directors is to direct, not manage, the school. Board members shall be able to manage, carry out the Falls Lake Academy vision, foster relationships with staff and the school community, and oversee the annual budget.

The vision and mission statements of Falls Lake Academy will serve to guide and direct the Board and its individual members. The goal to continually improve, maintain integrity, serve Falls Lake Academy families, and ensure academic success for our students shall take precedence in all situations.

**B. Qualifications:** In order to be qualified to serve as a member of the FLA Board of Directors, an individual must:

- read and be familiar with the Falls Lake Academy Charter;
- read and be familiar with the Falls Lake Academy educational plan; and
- be in agreement with the educational philosophy, discipline policy, and administrative structure of the school.

### **C. Involvement**

At a minimum, Board members should attend at least two PAC and/or FLAP meetings each year to show support and encouragement for that vital aspect of the school.

Board members shall not serve on the Parent Advisory Council, but may chair and serve on FLAP committees. A high value for professionalism and the success of the school is mandatory. Motivation for serving on the Board shall be to help guarantee the educational success of students.

Individual Board members shall fulfill their responsibilities on the Board, Board committees, or Board subcommittees to their fullest capability. All Board members should strive to be the best public relations representatives the school has.

#### D. Behavioral Expectations:

- Project a professional demeanor at all board meetings.
- Issues being discussed shall not be personalized and directed toward any other Board member, staff member, parent, or anyone else. Confidentiality is expected in all situations.
- Board members are expected to show respect and listen to ideas being presented by other Board members.
- Fulfilling their responsibilities to their fullest potential shall be encouraged by of each Board member by all other Board members.
- When receiving criticisms from parents or others about staff or other Board members, a Board member shall direct the speaker to the Board member or staff member which the situation involves. Board members will never speak negatively about staff or other Board members to anyone in the school community, or to any parties outside the school community.
- Conflicts shall be resolved at the level and with those persons with whom they were created. Board members will commit to resolving conflict directly with each other or with the appropriate staff member(s) and not share the conflict with anyone outside of the conflict, including, but not limited to other parents, other staff members, or the media.
- Board members shall exemplify integrity, honesty and respect.
- Dedication and commitment to the vision of Falls Lake Academy and the charter school movement shall be top priority for every Board member. Any Board member finding himself or herself involved in a unresolvable conflict shall put the vision of the school first and step down from the Board.
- Board members shall abide by the Open Meetings Law [C.R.S. 24-6-401 through 402]. The law states that for one Board member to discuss Board business, policy actions, resolutions, etc. with another Board member – except at meetings of the Board – is illegal. “Meeting” with another Board member is defined as communication through person, telephone, or any other means. Confidentiality law is also outlined in this section of the statute. Personnel matters, individual students, and negotiations are confidential by law.

#### E. Attendance Expectations

Attendance at all meetings and functions of the Board is a critical responsibility of all Board members. Board members missing more than two consecutive Board meetings or functions/events without prior approval for their absence from at least two other Board members shall be relieved of their Board involvement immediately.

#### F. Affirmation

Each Board member will be provided with a copy of this policy upon the commencement of his/her service as a Board member, whereupon he/she shall sign and date the policy signifying that it has been read and affirmed. Failure to sign does not negate or nullify the policy or implementation of its provisions.