

## **Governance Team Beliefs**

Together, we believe that:

1. Our primary purpose is to provide quality education for the students of our District;
2. What is best for our students informs all of our decisions;
3. Our focus is the needs of our students, staff and community;
4. We seek and encourage innovation;
5. We need to ask the tough questions in order to be wise stewards of the public's money;
6. Public education is fundamental to democracy;
7. Collaboration and cooperation are at the heart of our leadership;
8. All ideas are deserving of discussion and deliberation, and we value input from all stakeholders;
9. We provide a safe and healthy environment for students;
10. As role models for our students, staff and community, we demonstrate respect for others, even when we disagree;
11. We hold our governance team to high expectations, just as we do students and staff;
12. We recognize the value of mutual trust, open team dialogue, and being fully informed as a condition of mutual trust;
13. We govern as a unified team with a shared vision to lead and serve the community;
14. We commit to governing with a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities; and
15. We commit to creating and sustaining a positive governance leadership culture.

## **Purpose of These Protocols**

The Modesto City School District Board of Trustees (“Board”) agrees that to be an efficient board they must have formal structures to be used by the Board and the Superintendent in their functioning as a team and how they do business. These Protocols specify how a particular governance function or activity will be accomplished. These Protocols do not reiterate policy, but rather provide a level of detail absent in policy, but helpful to the individual members of the governance team in fulfilling policy, or clarifying matters not addressed in policy.

## **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to ensure that all students become lifelong learners by providing a rigorous and relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century education that prepares our students for college, career, or service to our country and to become contributing members of our global community.

## **Governance Team Norms**

As we work together as a Board we agree to the following:

1. We acknowledge that each of us brings differing personal strengths and focus to issues;
2. We acknowledge that only the Board as a whole has authority to take action and give direction to the Superintendent;
3. We are well prepared for meetings and attempt to clarify questions with staff in advance;
4. To promote student achievement, we will focus our efforts on the present and future needs of the District;
5. We demonstrate concern for the personal well-being of our governance team members;
6. We are respectful and non-judgmental of one another;
7. Minority views are respected and can be expressed, but we stand by the collective will of the Board;
8. We actively listen to each other and encourage full participation in discussions and decisions;
9. We stay on task; and
10. Both in closed and open session, we will not speak over others, and we will follow a method (pressing a button or raising hands) so the President can call on members in order.