



### ROLE OF COMMITTEES

The Board prefers to work as a committee of the whole board, however Board committees, when used, will be used to support the work of the board and to reinforce the wholeness of the board's job and never to interfere with delegation of authority from the board to the director.

Accordingly:

- This policy applies to any group that is formed by board action, whether or not it is called a committee and regardless of whether the group includes board members. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the director.
- Board committees may not speak or act for the board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes. Committee expectations and authority will be carefully stated in policy to assure that committee authority will not conflict with authority delegated to the director of education.
- Board committees cannot exercise authority over staff. Because the director works with the full board, he or she will not be required to obtain approval of a board committee before an executive action. Any direction to the director will come from the full board.
- Ad hoc committees may be established to help the board do its job, not to help or advise the staff. Committees ordinarily will assist the board by preparing policy alternatives, implications or recommendations for board deliberation. All recommendations will come with an explanation of the decision-making process and the implications of the recommendations. In keeping with the board's broader focus, board committees normally will not have direct dealings with current staff operations.
- Standing committees may be established to assist the Board with work of an ongoing or recurring nature.