

An Overview of School Board Service for Prospective Board Members*

NYOS Charter School (School) is governed by a volunteer school board of 14 members, including 4 parent members, 4 teacher members, up to 5 community members, and 1 student member. The School Board (Board) sets policies for the School and ultimately is responsible and accountable to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for both the academic program and the use public funds.

The Board provides governance. However, governance is not about the day-to-day operations of the school—which is the role of the Executive Director and her team. Governance is about values and vision and strategic leadership. Governance is about providing guidance and ensuring the operational, financial, and academic health of the School, as well as legal and regulatory compliance. In a governance-management organizational structure, the Board sets policy, but implementing policy is the role of management,

The Board is an individual entity, and conducts its business only during board meetings. The Board speaks with one voice—via the vote. Although the Board has legal authority, individual members do not. Outside of meetings, board members are individuals in their usual and customary roles. The Board supervises the Executive Director, but individual members do not. Board members are not school administrators. They do not represent a particular group or advocate for a specific cause; nor are they conduits for resolving complaints. Members bring different perspectives to the Board for the benefit of the of the entire NYOS community.

The roles, duties, and responsibilities of the Board are articulated in various statutes, rules, and policies. In the NYOS context, these result in the Board's key functions—what the Board actually does.

The Board's primary functions are:

- conducting financial oversight;
- conducting academic oversight;
- governing—policy making, goal setting, and evaluation; and
- providing for a strong, competent, knowledgeable, and skilled leader.

Board members are expected to:

- attend meetings;
- review all relevant documents prior to scheduled meetings
- ask questions during the meetings, as is necessary, to clarify and understand;
- fulfill all training requirements in a timely manner;
- engage in the work of the Board via participation in various committees;
- comply with all relevant by-laws, rules, and regulations; and
- participate in **OnBOARDing**[®] —the Board's new orientation and acclimation program.

Board members can expect to spend 5-10 hours/month in Board service, as follows:

- 1-2 hours/month reviewing documents/reports in preparation for regular monthly board meetings;
- 2-3 hours/month attending and participating in monthly board meetings via zoom until further notice;
- 1-2 hours/month for committee meetings; and
- 1-3 hours/month of related committee work.

*This overview is provided for informational purposes only. *The NYOS School Board Handbook* contains a more complete discussion of the items addressed above, in addition to citations to relevant statutes, rules, and by-laws.