

**Mount Abraham Unified School District Board
Policy Governance Monitoring Report**

Board Monitoring Report for policy 4.4- School Board Chair's Role
Reporting Period: February February 15, 2017- November 29, 2018
Report submitted by: Dawn Griswold, MAUSD School Director, Monkton

Policy Title: 4.4. School Board Chair's Role

The School Board Chair (Chair), a specially empowered member of the Board, ensures the integrity of the Board's process and, secondarily, occasionally represents the Board to outside parties.

Accordingly:

- 1. The assigned result of the Chair's job is that the Board behaves consistently with its own rules and those legitimately imposed on it from outside the organization.**

a. Meeting discussion content will consist solely of issues that clearly belong to the Board to decide or to monitor according to Board policy.

b. Information that is for neither monitoring performance nor Board decisions will be avoided or minimized and always noted as such.

c. Deliberation will be fair, open, and thorough but also timely, orderly, and kept to the point.

Board Adopted Interpretation: We interpret "*the Chair, a specially empowered member of the Board*" to mean the Chair is a specifically authorized member of the Board, empowered by the members of the Board for the designated task of guaranteeing the honesty of the Boards work process and in certain instances represents the Board to outside parties. The Chair is tasked with the responsibility of seeing that the Board conducts itself in accordance with its own rules and those imposed on it from outside the organization (i.e. state/federal laws). The Chair will make sure that meeting discussion content will consist solely of issues that are plainly outlined as Board duties/responsibilities, in accordance with Board policy. The Board will avoid or minimize any information that is not monitoring performance or Board decisions. Any and all Board debate will be fair-minded, open, and in-depth, as well as timely, organized, and clear.

Conclusion: **We report compliance.** The chair has taken on designated tasks and has worked to ensure the honesty and integrity of the Board's work. The Chair demonstrates dedication to the organization and its success. The Annual Board Work Plan and monthly Board agendas are a product of an ongoing collaboration between the Superintendent and Board Chair. This process helps to ensure that agendas and discussion content is focused on issues that are the Board's work under policy and in accordance with law including sharing of information needed for Executive Sessions. The Chair responds regularly to inquiries and provides information to the community to improve understanding of the Board and its work (see [Example A](#)). The Chair has worked to monitor the Boards practices and behaviors as results of its rules and those imposed by an outside organization. Example: Open meeting law and use of Executive Session (see [Minutes 5/14/18](#) and [Example B](#)). We are spending our time reviewing Monitoring Reports with our ENDS as a focus and all Board Members have a voice at the table during Board discussion (see [Example C](#)).

2. The authority of the Chair consists in making decisions that fall within topics covered by Board policies on Governance Process and Board- Management Delegation, with the exception of (a) employment or termination of a Superintendent and (b) areas where the Board specifically

delegates portions of this authority to others. The Chair is authorized to use any reasonable interpretation of the provisions in these policies.

a. The Chair is empowered to Chair Board meetings with all the commonly accepted powers of that position, such as ruling and recognizing.

b. The Chair has no authority to make decisions about policies created by the Board within Ends and Executive Limitations policy areas. Therefore, the Chair has no authority to supervise or direct the Superintendent.

c. The Chair may represent the Board to outside parties in announcing Board-stated positions and in stating Chair decisions and interpretations within the area delegated to her or him.

d. The Chair may delegate this authority but remains accountable for its use.

Board Adopted Interpretation:

- We interpret “*the authority of the Chair*” to mean the power given to the Chair by the Board. This power is given under the policies listed under Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation, with the exception of the following two items: employment/termination of a Superintendent and any area where the Board delegates its authority to others. In the decision making process the Chair, is authorized to use any reasonable interpretations of the requirements in these policies.
- We interpret “*The Chair is empowered to chair Board meetings with all the commonly accepted powers of that position, such as ruling and recognizing*” to mean the Chair will use common procedures for conducting meetings (i.e. Roberts’ Rules of Order). The Chair has no authority to make judgments about policy created by the Board within the ENDS and Executive Limitations areas. The Chair has no authority to supervise or direct the Superintendent and/or his staff. The Chair may represent the Board to outside parties, when announcing Board stated positions, Chair decisions and interpretations within areas delegated to her/him.
- We interpret this to mean when the Board makes a decision, the Chair may share the stated position. He/she may also convey Chair decisions and interpretations regarding areas delegated by the Board. At any time, the Chair has the ability to delegate his/her authority but, in the end will be held responsible for that authority.

Conclusion: We report compliance. The Chair has practiced careful use of the authority given through policy and tasks delegated by the Board. Policy is regularly consulted, and if need outside sources are consulted for information (see [Example D](#)). The Chair is mindful that while she has been empowered with special authority, it is not authority to direct the Superintendent and/or staff (see [Example E](#)). On occasion, the chair has been called upon to represent the Board to an outside party (see [Example F](#)). The chair does so by sharing the Board’s position. The Chair understand that at any time she can delegate her authority, but is ultimately responsible for the authority until it is carried out. The Chair remains a loyal and dedicated servant of the Board and to the organization and its success.

END OF MONITORING REPORT