VUSD Governance Team Standards, Protocols & Agreements
Board Planning Session: January 2019

1. We represent the community in District decisions and represent the District to the community.

2. Each Board member is responsible for the education of all students of the District and not solely to those in his/her trustee area.

3. We are an eight-member governance team, made up of a seven-member voting Board with support and collaboration of the Superintendent.

4. We can disagree publically, but we should not be disagreeable.

5. Board member reports are to include information relevant to District business, such as, but not limited to, Board committee reports, District programs, policies, events, and school visits.

6. We will devote sufficient time, thought, and study in preparation for decisions, including attendance at assigned committees and Board meetings.

7. When a Board member receives a call, he/she will listen to the concern and may refer the individual to the appropriate staff member and then inform the Superintendent.

8. We assist community members in accessing and understanding the District’s systems, policies, and procedures.

9. When individual Board members meet with groups, the purpose is to listen and gain information rather than make commitments or promises; then a summary of the meeting may be reported to the Superintendent.

10. We agree to follow the “no surprise” rule, which means not bringing up new items not previously discussed or mentioned in public meetings. Information, questions, requests, and concerns are referred first to the Superintendent.

11. Board members may and should call Cabinet members for information regarding items on the Board agenda.

12. When visiting schools, as a courtesy, Board members need to call the principal in advance.

13. We are committed to upholding Brown Act requirements and need to be cautious about the use of email, social media, and other communication between each other.

14. When a trustee abstains or votes “no” on an agenda item, he/she may explain the rationale for the abstention or the “no” vote for the public record.

15. Board members should avoid even the perception of conflicts of interest. When in doubt, abstain from the decision and the making of the decision and have your abstention noted in the Board’s minutes.