

August 4, 2017

Mr. Scott Kuffel
Geneseo CUSD 228
648 North Chicago Street
Geneseo, IL 61254

Dear Mr. Kuffel and Board Members:

Thank you for your participation in a Board Governance Review board self-evaluation workshop on Tuesday, August 1st. I appreciated you taking the time to fill out the survey ahead of time and your thoughtful discussion as you assessed your performance as aligned with IASB's Foundational Principles. Following this letter, you will find documentation from our work. In all cases, I encourage you to review my work to be sure I maintained the spirit of the discussion. You may wish to use a portion of these notes for your minutes of the meeting and share next steps during an open meeting.

As we discussed at your meeting, I recommend you schedule a board self-evaluation one every two years as a way to build an effective governance team. I enjoyed working with you and look forward to working with you in the future. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Reatha Owen
Director, Field Services

Enclosures
RKO/sbo

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Board Governance Review

On Wednesday, August 2, 2017, the Geneseo CUSD 228 Board of Education held a board self-evaluation. The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. and was facilitated by Reatha Owen from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

The Ideal Board

In our introductory work, Reatha asked the board to describe the “ideal” board of education. Board members reported the following:

- One voice
- Balcony
- Unity in discussion
- Have the ability to work with a group of people to successfully finance, educate, and run a district
- Open-minded (2)
- Respectful of others opinions (2)
- Agree to disagree
- Cooperative
- Energetic
- Listen to each other’s ideas
- Let the superintendent do his job
- Don’t micromanage
- Listens
- Collaborates
- Consensus
- Financially responsible and considerate of public opinion

The board reviewed the Board Governance Review (BGR) survey results. BGR data was generated from the online survey completed by board members and the superintendent. The board identified the survey items they would like to discuss.

The Board Clarifies the District Purpose (Foundational Principle 1)

#10 – District aligned to mission

The Board Connects with the Community (Foundational Principle 2)

none

The Board Employs a Superintendent (Foundational Principle 3)

none

The Board Delegates Authority – Foundational Principle 4)

none

The Board Monitors Performance (Foundational Principle 5)

none

The Board Takes Responsibility for Itself (Foundational Principle 6)

#78 – Orientation for New Board Member

After a discussion on the survey items, the team completed a plus/delta activity.

Based on the evaluation, how are we doing now?

+

Δ

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We listen to each other• We can laugh• We communicate well with each other (open)• Jill is a great member of the team• There is new (positive) chemistry in the board• New members are informed• Availability and engagement of the board• We get along	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of new board members – need to provide history of board work and assign a board mentor• How much time do we spend on children’s future vs. adult comfort
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Next Steps

Keeping in mind that every board of education should continuously improve and model learning for their district, the Geneseo CUSD 228 Board of Education covered the following items:

The Board Clarifies the District Purpose (Foundational Principle 1)

#10 - District aligned to the mission

The mission is connected to the district through its goals. The board discussed linking agenda items to district goals as they did in the past.

The Board Connects with the Community (Foundational Principle 2)

- Connection with the community on goals and building projects (proactive)
- Educate the community on school funding
- Changes in the community impact the conversation

The Board Takes Responsibility for Itself (Foundational Principle 6)

#78 – Orientation for New Board Member

- Navigating the website to access board materials
- Funding
- Assign a board mentor