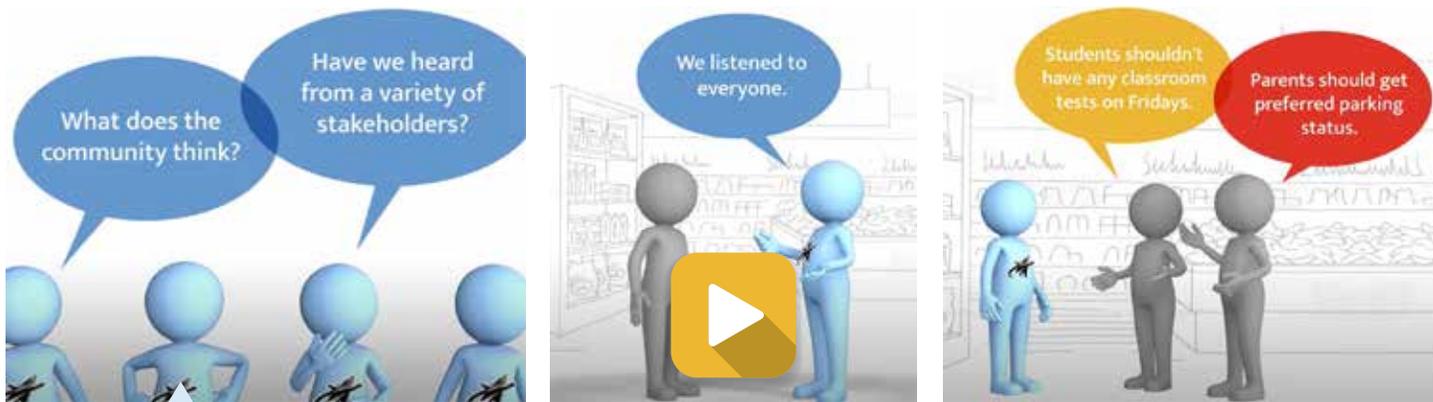


# Serving on the School Board

*What does it really mean?*



Watch a brief video illustrating the role of the School Board in Mounds View Public Schools. Visit [moundviewschools.org/board](https://moundviewschools.org/board).

For decades, Mounds View's School Board has been among the leaders in adopting policy governance as a model of operation.

How does it work?

## Policy, not management

The School Board focuses on policy decisions rather than on managing the operations. It adopts policies that provide general principles for guiding the management of the School District. It's the Superintendent and administration who manages the day-to-day operations of Mounds View Public Schools. Working in partnership with the Board, the Superintendent and administration also will make recommendations for the Board's consideration.

"Every school board is different," explains chair Jonathan Weinhagen. "Our board has not taken any formal votes about operations during the pandemic, but that doesn't mean we haven't been involved in the decision-making process. At every stage, the Superintendent has explained the options and we've discussed the challenges, advantages

and disadvantages of every one of the complicated decisions that we know impact our families and staff in various ways."

Working in close consultation with management allows the Board to approve the District's Operational Plan (DOP) of annual goals and to evaluate its only employee: the Superintendent.

"This School Board understands the Superintendent's decision-making process, and he and his team have our full support," says Weinhagen.

## Many backgrounds, one voice

No matter where they live, School Board members represent the interests of all the students in all the schools. Often, parents and staff will pressure the Board to engage in management to affect issues they are passionate about and become frustrated if their personal interests are not served.

"Our role is to interpret the needs of the entire community, not just our own attendance areas or by only listening to the loudest voices in the room," says Board member Heidi Danielson, "We get countless texts, emails and phone calls from residents who have

very diverse opinions. As a Board, we will exchange ideas and debate issues, but after a vote is taken, we have a responsibility to speak with a single voice."

---

**"Our role is to interpret the needs of the entire community, not just our own attendance areas."**

– Heidi Danielson,  
School Board member

---

This unified position gives sound and clear direction to those in management, and more importantly, to staff.

"For me, serving on the School Board was the next step after years of volunteering in schools and serving on District-wide committees," she says. "It's so often an incredibly rewarding experience seeing the difference you can make in so many lives."

## Membership

The School Board is made up of seven citizens elected at large by voters in the District every two years to four-year overlapping terms. At the end of a four-year term, members may run for reelection to successive terms. Voting takes place at general elections in November and terms begin the first Monday in January thereafter.

Every year at its first meeting in January, the School Board holds an organizational meeting to elect officers, make committee and school liaison assignments and settle other routine business. The Superintendent is an ex-officio member of the Board who facilitates the work of the Board and is responsible to the Board for providing leadership to the District and carrying out Board directives.

## Responsibilities

As the elected governing body of the Mounds View School District, the School Board is responsible to:

- Establish policy. The administration implements policy and supervises school operations.
- Employ and evaluate the Superintendent. The School Board is responsible for hiring, then evaluating, the chief administrator who oversees all operations of the School District.
- Establish and approve the annual budget.
- Set the annual local school levy.
- Work with the administration to determine the District's educational goals.
- Interpret the needs of the community regarding the educational program.
- Authorize development and revision of curriculum and student services.
- Approve expenditures and otherwise ensure that proper facilities and equipment are available to support teaching and learning in Mounds View Public Schools.
- Approve appointment of staff members as well as resignations, terminations and leaves of absence.

## Meetings

The School Board generally meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday and occasionally on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the District Center, located at 4570 Victoria St N, Shoreview. They are livestreamed and archived on the District's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/MoundsViewSchools](https://www.youtube.com/MoundsViewSchools). The School Board also holds regular work sessions to study issues in more depth. No formal actions are taken. Work sessions are typically held at 5 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the District Center and are open to the public.

## Policy Governance

Group	Roles
<b>Public and parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary educator of the child (parents)</li><li>• Elect School Board members</li><li>• Engage School Board members on educational issues</li><li>• Vote on levy requests</li></ul>
<b>School Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supervision and appraisal for one employee: the Superintendent</li><li>• Development of policies that govern schools and creation of district mission/vision/values</li><li>• Communication with the public</li><li>• Approval of budgets</li></ul>
<b>Superintendent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management and operation of School District through implementation of Board policies</li></ul>
<b>Principals and administrators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create school-based plans that align with District's operational plans and vision</li><li>• Support for the Superintendent</li><li>• Implementation of policies and procedures</li></ul>
<b>Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educate students</li><li>• Support for Superintendent, principals and administration</li><li>• Implementation of policies and procedures</li></ul>

## Goals

Every year, the Superintendent and Cabinet define goals, strategies and measurable performance indicators in the District Operational Plan (DOP). Twice a year, the Superintendent reports progress to the School Board. Twice a year, the School Board evaluates and reports on the performance of the Superintendent.

The 2021-22 DOP includes several goals. Special emphasis is placed on the following priority goals:

- Centralize the District's "Welcome and Enrollment Services."
- Align and strengthen career and college advising services in middle and high schools.
- Continue to enhance and expand student access to new flexible furniture and technology.
- Design and implement a 1:1 technology plan for middle school and high school instruction.
- Centralize, align and strengthen the District's system of student support and intervention.
- Complete contract negotiations with all employee groups while aligning expenditures and revenue, keeping class sizes within Board-approved ranges, limiting legacy costs and balancing the need to attract and retain the best employees.