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**Creating a Governance Framework**

**Professional Development Regional Session(s)**

**Fall 2024**

***Governance Framework: A structured approach to decision-making, oversight, and accountability, with the goal of ensuring effective management, transparency, consistency in governance practices and adherence to polices and regulations.***

**1. Vision and Mission**

* **Vision Statement:** Placeholder for your clear and inspiring long-term vision for education in your context (e.g., improving student outcomes, fostering lifelong learning).
* **Mission Statement:** Placeholder for your mission that describes your reason for being (e.g., providing accessible, high-quality education for all students).

**2. Governance Structure**

**3. Board Structure**

* Composition (i.e. number of board members and their qualifications)
* Officer roles and responsibilities

**4. Policy and Practice (WHAT we do . . . )**

* Set policy and goals
* Approve and adopt budget and engage in financial oversight
* Evaluate ourselves and management/school leader
* Oversee curriculum and instruction
* Engage with community/stakeholders
* Oversee policy implementation
* Engage in long-term planning
* Build an effective board team

**5. Operations and Procedures (HOW we do it. . .)**

***Operations: Ongoing functions necessary for governance functioning.***

***Procedures: Specific, detailed instructions or steps designed to achieve a particular outcome – often formalized and documented.***

**How do we . . .(*operations and procedures currently in place or operations and procedures that need to be developed*)**

* Govern over academics: HOW do we ensure student learning through policy and practice while overseeing adherence to standards?
* Govern over finance: HOW do we ensure equitable and effective distribution of educational resources and funding?
* Remain compliant and accountable: HOW do we ensure adherence to standards and regulations?
* Govern over school culture and climate: HOW do we ensure culture and climate are conducive to learning?
* Ensure our own governance culture: HOW do we maintain a board culture that, INTENTIONALLY, guides behavior and influences relationships between board members and stakeholders?

**6. Planning and Relationships . . . *think about how to improve stakeholder relationships while engaging stakeholders in significant planning exercises***

*Questions to Consider*:

**Relationships:**

* Identify/define “stakeholders” – who are they?
* How do we currently interact with them?
* How would we like to interact with them?
* How can we better engage our stakeholders in planning and significant decision-making?
* How do we engage them now in significant planning and decision-making?

**Planning:**

* With more planning time, our board would capitalize on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Ideas:
    - Strategic Goals
    - Trends’ Analysis
    - Benchmarking
    - Engaging with stakeholders more intentionally to gather input and build support for future initiatives
    - Implementing ongoing channels for stakeholders to provide feedback and suggestions
    - Ensuring curriculum instruction is preparing our students well and that we are innovating to maintain the interest of our students
    - Evaluating current facilities and anticipate future needs
    - Considering sustainable practices and infrastructure that will reduce long-term costs and environmental impact
    - Developing longer-term financial plans
    - Ensuring alignment between strategic goals and resources
    - Ensuring support of professional development for Board, staff, school leaders, etc.
    - Anticipating potential risks and challenges, such as funding cuts, demographic shifts or public health crises
    - Developing contingency plans for managing and mitigating potential risks
    - Ensuring technology supports our students and better anticipate future needs
    - Staying better informed about legal and policy considerations and better prepare for policy adaptations
    - Developing/implementing a more effective monitoring and evaluation system (of all things)