THE BOARD PRESIDENCY
Board Presidency: The Job
Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader...the set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role—always about the goal.

Lisa Haisha
BDB©
Board Officer Duties

Policy
1. Do I want to be board president? If not, no big deal! It's not for everyone.

2. How much time will be required? Do I have the time required?

3. What are the board and district's goal for the coming year? Am I the best fit for that?

4. Do I have good relationships? Have I built solid, professional relationships with board members and the superintendent?
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| 5 | **Can I run a meeting?**  
   It’s harder than it looks!  
   The meeting is the board’s opportunity to do its work. | 6 | **Am I collaborative?**  
   Do you want to build a culture of collaboration?  
   Is the team one I can work with to develop good board culture? |
| 7 | **How do I deal with conflict?**  
   Does conflict make you uncomfortable? Are you confident in your ability to address conflict? | 8 | **Do I know what the role is...and what it is not?**  
   The board president is not the gatekeeper of the agenda nor do you have any special power. |
Soft Skills Required

Problem solving  Listening  Communicating  Being flexible
The Organizational Meeting
What is an organizational meeting?

Required by Arizona Revised Statutes §15-321, an organizational meeting is a meeting of the school district governing board in which the board chooses its board president and, should they have one, either a board vice-president or board clerk.

It often is also the meeting at which basic board meeting procedures are reviewed – when the board will meet for the coming year, basic board meeting policies, the board’s code of ethics, mission, vision and strategic goals, among other topics.
Legal Requirements

- MUST occur between January 1 and January 15 following a general election

- CAN occur more frequently than that if allowed by board policy and the matter is on the agenda

- Board president is the only board officer position mandated by statute

- President MUST be elected by public vote on motion
Organizational Meeting Procedures

Previous board president chairs the organizational meeting, then passes gavel to new board president if there is a change.

Allow for discussion about the board presidency and clerk/VP positions on the board.

If a vote ties, it fails.

If the board cannot agree on a board president, the previous board president or the person chairing the organizational meeting continues as board president until one can be chosen.
Pick Your Poison

4 Types of Organizational Meetings
1. Quick Draw
   First name out wins!
   Not ideal. It can cause feelings of mistrust.

2. Round Robin
   Everyone gets a turn!
   Works when everyone or no one wants the job.

3. Strategic
   Plan for the year ahead!
   What's coming up and who has the skill/time to do it?

4. Democratic
   Anyone can throw their hat in!
   Anyone who is interested is able to state their intention before a motion is made.
“Win or lose, do it fairly.”

Coach Knute Rockne
Being Board President is more than a title...

Here’s what your, superintendent, board secretary & fellow board members need from you.
Board Secretary

Let's face it, you need them...so be respectful, professional & kind

1. Follow the chain of command and established protocols. Don't bypass them or ask us to.


3. Avoid changes to the agenda once it is set. Such changes look bad and make the job harder.

4. Don't make it weird. Avoid venting about other members/staff or putting us in awkward positions.

5. Be specific about what it is you need/want.
Superintendent
It's a partnership...be prepared to work.

1. Have time to do the job well. There is a lot of planning & preparation needed to do it well.

2. Come prepared, to the agenda setting meeting, to discuss the needs of the entire board.

3. Smile, you're on camera! Come prepared to run an efficient meeting.

4. Set the tone for board professional learning through conferences, work study sessions, evaluation, etc.

5. Be willing and able to work with all members during the meeting and in-between meetings.
Board Members

Be a facilitator, not a gatekeeper.

1. Ensure everyone is able to get their voice heard.
2. Bring forward our requests during agenda setting.
3. Don't be a hoarder. Share information with us.
4. Focus the board on moving district and board goals forward.
5. Organize and support team learning and development opportunities.
A board president said, “I never have trouble running a meeting. People know and respect the rules. Sometimes we have a good battle, but if a situation gets to be tense, I know it needs either to be studied further or voted upon and gotten out of the way.”
Questions?

Julie Bacon
jbacon@azsba.org

Devin Del Palacio
ddelpalacio@azsba.org