

GAVILAN JOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GROUND RULES

Ground rules are flexible and advance mutual interest in promoting effectiveness, civility, and willingness to cooperate and collaborate in working together to serve the needs of students in the best interests of Gavilan Joint Community College District.

1. The manner in which the Board operates matters. How it engages with the Superintendent/President, college community, and public impacts its effectiveness, the effectiveness of others in the college community, the District's work and educational environments, and accreditation.
2. Trustees will take as a given that each Trustee and the Superintendent/President act in good faith on behalf of the District.
3. There is quality, honest, focused, respectful, and patient debate on any matter of concern to a Trustee or the Superintendent/President that is within the purview of the Board.
4. Decisions are based on sufficient, relevant data, and other reliable sources of information that have been made available to all members. The Board will communicate effectively and as a whole with the Superintendent/President over what it expects in the way of sufficient relevant data and information. Trustees may make requests for information to the Superintendent/President, and that information will be provided if it is readily available. Any such information provided will be provided to the full board. All other Trustees' requests for data or information shall be made at board meetings and directed to the Board Chair. The Board Chair will then informally poll the board to see if a majority supports the request. If so, the request will be made to the Superintendent/President. The request will include a date by which the information will be provided, with the date established collaboratively with the Superintendent/President. If a date for production cannot be established at the meeting, the Board Chair will work with the Superintendent/President to establish a timeline after the Superintendent/President has had an opportunity to confer with staff.

There will be purposeful planning around what information will be provided to the board and when, to ensure trustees have the information they need. A subcommittee of the Board may also request information without having to bring requests to the full board at regular meeting.

5. Trustees will avoid back-tracking: once the Board has heard and considered the views of its members and acted, all members will respect the action of the quorum, unless and until the Board takes up the matter again. The Board respects the requests of members to revisit issues when based on new information.

6. Trustees will hold each other accountable for following ground rules. No single Trustee can sidetrack the Board without the Board's acquiescence.
7. Continued board development will occur through the purposeful application of these agreed-upon ground rules during productive work sessions.
8. The Board and the Superintendent/President lead by example by engaging in transparent professional development activities.