

# THE NEXT STEPS IN ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MN ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS | HF3484 (REP. FEIST) | SF3450 (REP. GUSTAFSON)

## ENHANCES BOARD GOVERNANCE

### 1. ENHANCES BOARD TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Requires every chartered public school board member or ex officio must attend board trainings
- B. Requires training must be completed prior to board term on roles and responsibilities, open meeting law, and data practices law.
- C. Requires new board members must complete training within 12 months of being seated on Chapter 181 policies and practices, public school funding and financial management, and board roles/responsibilities (student success, achievement, performance).
- D. Requires ongoing annual board training based on an annual assessment of training needs of board members, which include strategic planning, oversight and evaluation, budgeting, financial management, and a wide variety of other relevant and important areas listed in statute.
- E. Requires organization must provide training to certify completion of training.
- F. Requires that the chartered public school is responsible for covering training costs and must include trainings completed in annual report.
- G. Requires board must ensure that an annual assessment of board's performance is conducted and results reported in annual report.

### 2. ENHANCES INITIAL BOARD REQUIREMENTS

- A. Requires initial board members must not be related parties.
- B. Requires board and school developers must comply with training requirements in law upon incorporation of the school.

### 3. ENHANCES ONGOING BOARD REQUIREMENTS

- A. Requires ongoing boards must begin board structure transition by end of 1st year and have process completed by end of 2nd year.
- B. Requires board terms begin July 1st - terms of no less than 2 years - board bylaws must set number of terms individuals may serve.

### 4. ENHANCES BOARD MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- A. Requires board members must not be related.
- B. Requires ongoing boards must include one licensed teacher who is employed by the school that provides instruction to students.
- C. Requires a chartered public school board's structure must be defined in their bylaws.
- D. Clarifies board bylaws must outline the process to change the board's governance structure.
- E. Eliminates CFO eligibility as an ex-officio non-voting board member.
- F. Prohibits individuals from serving on more than one chartered public school board – elected or ex-officio.

### 5. ENHANCES BOARD ELECTION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Clarifies board elections must: establish and publish policies and procedures on school website; notify eligible voters of election dates and voting procedures 30 days prior and publish on school website; and notify eligible voters of candidate names, biographies, and statements 10 days before an election and publish on school website.

## CLARIFIES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

### 1. REQUIRES 25 HOURS OF ANNUAL TRAINING FOR SCHOOL DIRECTORS WITHOUT A VALID ADMIN LICENSE

- A. Training includes (but is not limited to): instruction and curriculum; state standards; teacher and staff hiring, development, support, and evaluation; social-emotional learning; data collection and usage; assessment methodologies; use of technology for learning and management; chartered public school law and requirements; code of professional ethics; financial management and state accounting requirements; grant management; legal and compliance management; special education management; health and safety laws; restorative justice; cultural competencies; effective communication; parent relationships; board and management relationships; community partnerships; charter contract and authorizer relationships; and public accountability.

### 2. REQUIRES 10 HOURS OF ANNUAL TRAINING FOR NEW SCHOOL DIRECTORS WITH A VALID ADMIN LICENSE DURING FIRST YEAR

- A. Training includes chartered public school law and requirements; board and management relationships; and charter contract and authorizer relationships.

### 3. REQUIRES DOCUMENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS BY SCHOOL DIRECTOR IN ANNUAL REPORT

### 4. REQUIRES BOARD TO ESTABLISH QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMIN, ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

- A. Qualifications must include a four year degree from accredited institution and other appropriate areas such as experience in instruction and assessment, curriculum design, human resource and personnel management, professional ethics, child development, financial management, legal and compliance management, special education oversight, contract management, effective communication, cultural competency, board and authorizer relationships, parent relationships, and community partnerships.

- B. Requires board to use these qualifications as basis for the job description, hiring, and performance evaluation for directors and admin.

**5. PROHIBITS ADMIN FROM ADMIN/CONSULTANT WORK WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL SANS BOARD APPROVAL/AUTH. DISCLOSURE**

**6. PROHIBITS ADMIN FROM SERVING ON THE BOARD OF ANOTHER CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**CLARIFIES LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & DEFINITIONS**

**1. CLARIFIES REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Requires purposes must be identified in charter contract and implementation documented in the authorizer’s perf. review of the school.
- B. Clarifies no goods or services can be used to induce enrollment by any agent of the chartered public school.
- C. Clarifies schools must disseminate information on school’s offerings and enrollment procedures to low-income families and communities, students of color, students at risk of academic failure, and students underrepresented in the school’s student body relative to Minnesota’s population – requires documenting this in the school’s annual report and include as a component in the school’s authorizer’s performance review.
- D. Clarifies required nepotism policy is an “anti-nepotism” policy.

**1. CLARIFIES LEGAL DEFINITIONS**

- A. Clarifies that a “teacher” serving on a chartered public school board must have valid teaching license, serve in the classroom teaching students, and cannot serve in an administrative capacity for more than 240 hours per calendar year.
- B. Clarifies definition of “immediate family and related party” in conflict of interests provisions to clearly include “spouses, parents, grandparents, siblings, children, aunts, uncles, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.”
- C. Clarifies definition of employee for child enrollment preference requiring at least 480 employed hours per calendar year.

**CLARIFIES ROLE OF AUTHORIZERS & MN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)**

**1. CLARIFIES THE ROLE OF AUTHORIZERS**

- A. Clarifies authorizer’s role is to ensure schools they authorize have autonomy to which school is entitled, fulfils purposes of a chartered public school, and is accountable to the agreed upon terms of the contract to safeguard quality education opportunities for students and maintain public trust and confidence.
- B. Clarifies authorizer has responsibilities to: review applications, make ready-to-open determinations for new schools, and approve or deny applications; negotiate and execute performance charter contracts with schools it authorizes; conduct ongoing monitoring, oversight, and evaluation of school’s academic, operational, and financial performance and evaluate it to determine contract renewals or terminations; comply with authorizer requirements in chartered public school law.
- C. Clarifies authorizer must document completion of training of staff members on chartering and an authorizer’s role/responsibilities.
- D. Clarifies that the Commissioner shall not require authorizers undertake any role/responsibility beyond that in statute or charter contract.
- E. Clarifies authorizer reviews can be requested by a school’s lead admin or board of directors.
- F. Clarifies in the Commissioner’s authorizer review process that they will: share findings with authorized schools; develop criteria/process of performance review system in consultation with authorizers, school admin, board of directors, and other stakeholders; publish authorizer performance review criteria and process 12 months prior to any changes that take effect; base the performance review system on the authorizer’s roles/responsibilities (124E.05, subd. 2, and 124E.10); evaluate performance on adherence/implementation of 124E.05, subd.5, paragraph b and include authorizer, admin, and board input; and develop/maintain portfolio of all reports/data submitted to MN Dept. of Ed (MDE) since last review to reduce redundancy.

**2.. CLARIFIES COMMISSIONER MUST NOT:**

- A. Penalize an authorizer for not chartering additional schools.
- B. Penalize an authorizer for not undertaking roles/responsibilities not defined in their policies, procedures, processes, contract, or law.

**3. CLARIFIES CHARTER CONTRACT NON-RENEWAL/TERMINATION HEARINGS MUST BE RECORDED, PRESERVED, AND MADE PUBLIC**



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Charter Schools