

becoming an SVCS Board Member

The SVCS Governing Board is tasked with the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure that SVCS provides standards-based instruction and a positive school climate conducive to student learning.
2. Establish and maintain the vision and strategic plan for the school.
3. Evaluate the Principal and, therefore, the school.
4. Ensure adequate resources are available, and that the school exercises fiscal responsibility and accountability.
5. Enhance the school's public standing within both the educational and civic communities.
6. Recruit and orient new board members and assess its own performance.

Additionally, Governing Boards are often expected to help fundraise for the school by seeking connections with local businesses and philanthropies. There are several activities that arise from these responsibilities. As a Board member, you will be expected to engage in all of these.

1. Ensure good student learning
 1. Become familiar with the educational programs
 2. Seek out ways to challenge the school to improve outcomes for all students.
2. Vision and strategic plan:
 1. Participate in Board Workshops
 2. Familiarize yourself with the history of SVCS
 3. Familiarize yourself with the process of defining a strategic plan.
3. Evaluate the Principal
 1. Become conversant in key areas of school performance - educational programs, staff satisfaction and student proficiency (including subgroups of the student population).
 2. Participate in continuing education activities such as educational seminars in order to better understand areas of risk and exposure.
 3. Become familiar with how the school operates, including meeting staff and visiting classrooms of all grade levels.
4. Fiscal responsibility and accountability
 1. Become conversant in reading and understanding the budget, revenue and expense reports and the audited financial statements.

Qualifications: The consequence of the Board failing to successfully complete the above activities is the failure of the school. Therefore, it is advantageous to have Board members with backgrounds in accounting, education administration, governance, insurance, law, and public policy. It can be challenging to find people with these specific backgrounds who have the time and interest to participate. Therefore, Board members will be expected to become educated in those areas that are not already represented.

Qualities of a good Board member:

1. Willing to learn, often on his/her own time, about key topic areas such as law, finance, and governance.
2. Ability to remain neutral and explore all sides of an issue before making decisions.
3. Understand that being an individual Board member conveys no authority over school staff or special treatment.
4. Understand that the Board's role is to govern, not to manage.
5. Ability to work as part of a group.

School district boards are often considered “steppingstone” positions to other political positions. In contrast, a charter school board is a working board, and will take on many of the governance tasks that a district office might otherwise perform. As a Board member, you will generally not be making policy for the school (and the Board is not interested in candidates who have an “agenda” to push). Instead, you will be helping to set the overall vision and direction.

Applying to Become a Trustee

1. Attend at least one Board meeting so you are familiar with the topics discussed.
2. Complete the Statement of Interest document and submit it to the School Office or by email to: [**tsandhu@sacvalleycharter.org**](mailto:tsandhu@sacvalleycharter.org)
3. The Board's Committee will contact you to meet with you and ask any follow-up questions about your application.

For applications to fill the current vacant seat, the Committee will review applications in **October 2024**, and provide a list of candidates to the Board by **November 6, 2024** for selection at the **November 13, 2024** Regular Board Meeting.

For applications to fill an upcoming seat, the Board will open a 30-day application window, provide a list of candidates to the Board seven days prior to the next Regular Meeting for selection at the Regular Meeting.

Candidate selection is done in closed session.