

1.2 BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Scholars Academy is governed by a Board of Directors (collectively, the “Board” and, individually, a “board member”) tasked with the duty to make planning and policy decisions consistent with its mission and charter, to assure adequate funding, to monitor and sanction student performance and teacher employment, and to employ and evaluate the Executive Director of Scholars Academy.

Each board member is expected to comply with the following duties and expectations:

1. Board members should have a deep understanding of the Scholars Academy mission, charter and academic program. Each board member should respect the Scholars Academy mission, students, teachers, administration and staff/volunteer partnership.
2. Board members should attend board meetings regularly, missing no more than two meetings each year. If not able to attend a meeting, the Chair is to be notified in advance with the reason for the absence. A board member who misses three meetings in any fiscal year without good cause and prior approval is deemed to have resigned from the Board.
3. Board members should review agenda items and related reports in advance of meetings, ask discerning questions, and constructively participate in deliberations. Board members shall respect and listen to ideas being presented by other board members. Board members shall be encouraged by other board members to fulfill their responsibilities to their fullest potential. Each board member shall consider the mission and charter of Scholars Academy in forming its decision yet vote according to its own convictions.
4. Each board member should act in a professional and respectful manner to provide an example that others may emulate and to foster effective and efficient operation of the charter school:
 - a. When engaged with community members outside of board meetings, act as one, unified entity dependent on one another rather than independent board members with multiple ideas and a scattered vision;
 - b. Support the Board’s decision regardless of personal opinion; and
 - c. Follow the duty of loyalty to pursue actions that are in the best interest of the school and not a personal agenda.
5. Each board member should assume a major responsibility on at least one standing committee and on task forces as needed. In addition, board members should assume leadership positions, like joining a committee for a special event, as needed by Scholars Academy.
6. Board members should be mindful that the North Carolina Office of Charter Schools identifies the fiduciary obligations of the Board to include the following: (a) guiding the school in a manner consistent with Scholars Academy’s mission and charter, (b) ensuring that Scholars Academy is on a financially sustainable path, and (c) maintaining the integrity of Scholars Academy’s academic

program. As such, board members should work collaboratively with other board members to fulfill the fiduciary and governance obligations of the Board.

7. Each board member should make a financial contribution to the annual campaign and support the development director in raising money for the school. Each board member should be willing and able to act as an advocate for Scholars Academy in the community.
8. The Board should oversee school results, with a focus on the academic performance of students.
9. The Board should hire the Executive Director and monitor his or her performance with annual evaluations. The Board should trust the hired leadership to perform daily, operational duties while they also help shape the governance effectiveness of the Board.
10. The Board should adopt policies to clarify the operational boundaries of the Executive Director. Those policies should be governance-based, not management-oriented.
11. Board members must participate in an annual Board self-evaluation and set goals for the Board. Board members must participate in retreats or conferences established to develop a strategic plan for Scholars Academy and/or to obtain training on effective board leadership or other topics pertinent to Scholars Academy and its mission.
12. Board members shall abide by the North Carolina open meetings law (N.C. Gen. § 143-318.10-11).
13. Board members shall maintain the confidentiality of personnel discussions or other closed sessions topics.
14. Board members shall sign, annually, Scholars Academy's conflict of interest statement, confidentiality agreement and this statement of expectations.
15. When receiving criticisms from parents or other interested parties about staff or other board members, a board member shall direct the speaker to the board member/staff member which the situation involves.
16. Board members should attend school events to show support and encouragement for our school.
17. A board member should resign from the Board if he or she believes they are unable to fulfill the above-stated expectations or that they are no longer in support of the mission and vision of Scholars Academy.

Adopted: November 24, 2014