

I. Governing Principles

The Sheffield Board of Education recognizes that the public schools of Sheffield belong to and are supported by the residents of the school district. These schools are operated in the public interest by the Sheffield Board of Education, a representative body appointed by the Sheffield City Council and responsible to the public for the proper administration of the schools. It is the primary responsibility of the Board to crystallize the educational goals, ideals, and values into concepts of policy and to assume the responsibility for seeing that these are translated into actual practice by the superintendent and administrative staff.

The quality and kind of education that children may be expected to receive depend on two things:

1. The extent to which people are willing and able to pay for education, and
2. The concept in the minds of citizens of what a good school program is.

The Sheffield Board of Education believes that all appropriate means must be used for keeping the community accurately informed about its schools and for understanding community attitudes and aspirations for the schools.

The intellectual development of each child of school age in Sheffield is the primary concern of the Sheffield City Schools. The attainment of sound intellectual growth requires each student:

1. To master the skills of written and oral communication;
2. To master the skills of computation;
3. To develop intellectual curiosity;
4. To be able to think critically and solve problems;
5. To be introduced to the world of work; and
6. To be able to make the best use of his capacities in the way of life he/she chooses.

The Sheffield Board of Education believes that the ultimate success of the school system depends upon its staff. The Sheffield City Schools shall be staffed by persons who are individually competent and organized into a cooperative body with common purposes and goals. Applicants for employment in the Sheffield City School System are evaluated and employed on the basis of broad general scholarship, thorough preparation in a field of special knowledge, and professional competence.

The Sheffield Board of Education believes that attainment of the educational objectives of the school program requires understanding and collaboration among members of the Board of Education, the superintendent and his administrative staff, the professional personnel, the support personnel, and the citizens of Sheffield. To facilitate this, free and open exchange of views and ideas is desirable and necessary.

The Sheffield Board of Education believes that the instructional staff in each school should be appropriate large enough to meet the demands imposed by the number of pupils enrolled, the curriculum of the school, and the individual needs of the pupils.

The Sheffield Board of Education believes that it has the responsibility for assuring the community that its investment in buildings and facilities and in the school system's operational funds is protected and wisely distributed. While board members cannot tend to fiscal affairs personally, they do require the superintendent to keep them informed through oral and written reports. With the assistance of the Board of Education CSFO and other personnel designated by the superintendent, the superintendent shall develop an efficient and businesslike procedure for fiscal accounting, purchasing and protection of school buildings, grounds, and equipment through effective and economical maintenance, operation and insurance.

The Sheffield Board of Education believes that the total responsibility for the administration of the school system must rest with the superintendent. He is the executive officer of the Board, leader and accountable officer for all personnel of the school system, and liaison between those personnel and the Board of Education.