



# Christian Brothers High School Board of Trustees

## What does the Board of Trustees do?

The Board of Trustees at Christian Brothers High School govern on behalf of the school's sponsors, the De La Salle Christian Brothers. As a governing board, it does not function as an advisory body and is not involved in the daily operations of the school. The Board's purpose is to preserve and advance the mission of the school by developing broad directives through which the President/CEO works to meet determined goals. The Board uses a system of checks and balances to hold the school and CEO accountable. Policies are developed and monitored in four key areas:

1. Whom will the school will serve, what results are expected for students and at what cost?
2. The boundaries in which the school's management can operate.
3. The definition of the distinct roles between the Board and the CEO.
4. The nature of how the board will perform its governance role and conduct its business.

All policies flow from the mission of Christian Brothers High School and in the tradition of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.



## Who makes up the Board?

The Board of Trustees is composed of between 9 and 13 members who are appointed to a three-year term which is renewable once. Board membership is diverse and includes people who have a connection to Christian Brothers High School as well as the broader community. Board members typically are alumni, alumni parents, religious or ordained members of the diocese, prospective parents, business professionals, educators, local and state government professionals, and neighborhood leaders.

Invitation to Board membership is extended to individuals who have the ability to represent the mission of the Christian Brothers through proper Lasallian formation and study, who can contribute to mission-centered policy review and development, and who have the time to attend board meetings and other Board events. All nominees complete a two-day training in the Lasallian Educational Mission and the use of Policy Governance before they can be officially appointed to the board by the Lasallian Education Corporation. The training takes place at Mont La Salle in Napa, California.

## *The Mission of the De La Salle Christian Brothers*

*The Mission of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry that the Church has entrusted to it.*

*The Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*

## What is expected of Board Members?

- Serve as a trusted guardian of the Catholic Lasallian mission.
- Be able to contribute 3-6 hours a month to work of the Board and/or Board Committees
- Represent unconflicted loyalty to the interests of the Lasallian Educational Corporation and the school.
- Avoid conflicts of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility.
- Be a prudent and responsible fiscal steward of the school.
- Attend all Board meetings and committee meetings.
- Actively participate in Board deliberations.
- Prepare for the meetings by reviewing the Board packets and appropriate materials.
- Exercise conscientious decision-making consistent with policies.
- Respect Board and school confidentiality.
- Become knowledgeable about the school, its history, and its programs.
- Become knowledgeable about the Lasallian educational mission and tradition.
- Attend school events where feasible to interact with staff, faculty, students, parents, and friends of CBHS.
- Contribute financially to the school on an annual basis and support the school's capital needs.



## How does the Board govern?

The Board of Trustees governs with an emphasis on:

- Outward and future vision
- Encouragement of diversity in viewpoints
- Strategic leadership, more than administrative detail
- Clear distinction between the roles of the Board and the CEO
- Speaking as one voice
- Being proactive with policy development
- Knowing the values of the Christian Brothers
- Monitoring the performance of the CEO and the Board itself
- Practicing the principles of Policy Governance

## What is Policy Governance®?

Policy Governance is an approach to the job of governing that emphasizes values, vision, empowerment of both board and staff, and the strategic ability to lead leaders.

Starting with recognition of the fundamental reasons that boards exist and the nature of board authority, Policy Governance integrates a number of unique principles designed to enable accountable board leadership. These include:

- Being the proactive link between the school and the Brothers.
- Guiding the school through very broad but complete policies.
- Assertively but fairly assuring that the school, through the CEO, is performing successfully.

\*Policy Governance Source Document from the International Policy Governance Association and *Board Leadership*, John Carver, Executive Editor.

## ***Christian Brothers High School Mission Statement***

*The mission of Christian Brothers High School is to provide our students with a comprehensive Catholic education in a Christian community, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, and according to the educational vision of St. John Baptist de La Salle.*

*Our students are offered a quality, college preparatory curriculum that meets their individual needs, enabling them to gain the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to prepare them for the future. Our students are presented with experiences that deepen and strengthen their faith based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the heritage and tradition of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, and the responsibility to be of service to others.*

*Our students experience a community that maintains a culturally and economically diverse student body. In this environment, our students are encouraged to recognize and value their own self-worth as well as the unique diversity of others.*

Christian Brothers High School: [www.cbhs-sacramento.org](http://www.cbhs-sacramento.org)