

Reasons to Move Toward Mission-Directed Governance

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The SCCS school board has decided to adopt the mission-directed governance model for the following reasons:

- The CSI accreditation site visit team report, school improvement plan, and self-evaluation process indicated a need for changing the governance system.
- Several symptoms led to the change: CSI accreditation site team interviews, the board feeling it was too involved in details, and a desire for long-range planning and seeking models to get there.
- The board connected with Len Stob and read his book *Mission-Directed Governance* as well as attending two trainings and consulting with him. The board desires to adapt his ideas and plans to make them work for SCCS.
- The governance model identifies a clear decision-making structure and process and clear accountability, processes, roles, and authority. It provides consistency.
- The governance model allows and encourages the board to focus on long-term vision and the mission statement, with all areas of the school working to reach the ideal. The board determines the directions and the priorities of the school.
- We move forward as a community of believers, protecting our foundational beliefs.
- The board as a whole (not standing committees) can establish policies and see the big picture.
- The board will be more informed about the operations of the school.
- The governance model assists the board and school to be proactive versus reactive, not allowing situations to dictate decisions, but wanting plans to drive the future of the school.
- There will be board consistency even though the board membership changes (vision, direction, and mission stay the same). A high level of continuity is possible.
- The model respects administrators and teachers and provides them room to do their work, empowering without redundancy.
- Administrators can think of the board as a resource, leveraging board members to build a better organization and using talents and gifts of board members.
- When governance goes well, Christian faith can be deeply woven into the mission and fabric of the school. We believe that the mission-directed governance system will do this for us.
- This model will allow us to move forward with confidence, vision, and hope in a way that encourages education that is faith nurturing, academically excellent, and effective.