011. BOARD GOVERNANCE STANDARDS/CODE OF CONDUCT

§1. Standards for Effective School Governance

To promote student growth and achievement, and effective School Board shall:

a. Advocates for a thorough and efficient system of education by:

1. Promoting public education and school choice as a keystone of democracy.

2. Engaging and promoting community support by seeking input, building support networks and generating action.

3. Allocating resources in a manner designed to facilitate student achievement consistent with CCA goals and plans.

4. Maintaining legislative awareness and communicating with members of local, state and federal legislative bodies.

5. Ensuring strong management of the school by hiring, setting goals with and evaluating the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operations Officer.

6. Employing qualified staff to meet student and program needs.

b. Models responsible governance and leadership by:

1. Staying current with changing needs and requirements by reviewing educational literature, attending professional development opportunities prior to Board service and continuously during Board service, and preparing to make informed decisions.

2. Interacting with school officials in other schools and using resources provided by organizations and agencies committed to effective governance and management of schools.
3. Leading with respect and taking full responsibility for Board activity and behavior.

4. Adopting a CCA Board member Code of Conduct and submitting a Board member self-evaluation annually.

5. Engaging all community stakeholders.

6. Complying with Board policy and all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.

7. Operating as a collective Board in making decisions.

8. Participating in annual Board retreats.

c. Governs through policy by:

1. Seeking input from stakeholders and following an established procedure for consideration.

2. Regularly reviewing and, as necessary, revising and adopting Board policy.

3. Delegating to the Chief Executive Officer responsibility for implementation of Board policy.

4. Ensuring public access to adopted Board policy.

5. Purposefully linking its actions to applicable Board policies.

d. Ensures that effective planning occurs by:

1. Adopting and implementing a collaborative strategic planning process, including regular reviews.

2. Setting annual goals that are aligned with the Strategic Plan.

3. Linking Board actions to the Strategic Plan.

4. Adopting a financial plan that considers short-term and long-term needs.

5. Adopting professional development plans for Board and staff.

6. Adopting a plan to ensure evaluation of student growth and achievement using relevant data.

7. Adopting a master facilities plan conducive to teaching and learning.

8. Adopting a plan for curriculum review and development.
e. Monitors results by:

1. Using data appropriately to make informed decisions.
2. Ensuring effective practices for evaluation of staff, programs, plans and services.
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Strategic Plan.

f. Communicates with and engages the community by:

1. Distributing relevant information about CCA.
2. Providing methods of communication to the Board and appropriate staff.
3. Seeking input through a variety of methods.
4. Including stakeholders in all communications.

§2. Code of Conduct for School Board Members

a. We, as members of the CCA Board of Trustees, representing all the students and families of CCA, believe that:

1. Striving toward ideal conditions for effective School Board service to our school community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to education, is the greatest instrument for preserving and perpetuating our representative democracy.
2. The future welfare of this school community, Commonwealth and nation depends upon the quality of education we provide in charter schools.
3. In order to maintain a free and strong country, our civic obligation to the school community, Commonwealth and nation is to maintain free and strong schools in the United States of America, without surrendering our responsibilities to any other person, group or organization.
4. School Board members share responsibility for ensuring a “thorough and efficient system of public education” as required by the Pennsylvania Constitution.
5. Our fellow Board members have entrusted us with the advocacy for and stewardship of the education of the youth of this Commonwealth.
6. The public expects that our first and greatest priority is to provide equitable educational opportunities for all youth.
b. Accordingly:

1. The school community should be provided with information about CCA and be engaged by the Board and staff to encourage input and support for the school.

2. Devoting time, thought and study to our duties and responsibilities as Board members is critical for rendering effective and credible service.

3. Board members should work together in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation, despite differences of opinion.

4. Personal decisions should be based upon all sufficient facts. We should vote our honest conviction without partisan bias, and we will abide by and uphold the majority decision of the Board.

5. Individuals have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and should conduct their relationships with all stakeholders and media on this basis.

6. We will not use our positions as School Trustees to benefit ourselves or any individual or agency.

7. Boards must balance their responsibility to provide educational programs with the need to be effective stewards of public resources.

8. We should recognize that the primary responsibility of the Board is to adopt policies by which the school is to be administered.

9. We should respect that the Chief Executive Officer of CCA and his/her staff are responsible and accountable for the delivery of the educational programs and the conduct of school operations.

10. Communication with all stakeholders and the media should be conducted in accordance with Board policy.