

League of Women Voters of Chicago

Governance of the Chicago Board of Education

The League of Women Voters of Chicago believes that the Chicago Board of Education should be structured to be accountable, transparent and provide effective oversight and meaningful community engagement.

The League of Women Voters of Chicago believes that whatever method is chosen to select the members of the Chicago Board of Education, there are secondary issues that should be addressed in the following manner:

A. Type of Governance:

- If governed by an elected Board of Education, the majority of members should be elected from geographical districts.
- If governed by a board appointed by the Mayor of Chicago, Chicago should return to the practice of a district-wide nominating commission.
- If governed by a hybrid board, with some members elected and some appointed by the mayor, the majority of members should be elected from geographical districts.

B. Search/Oversight:

- There should be a search committee to locate candidates for the position of CEO/Superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools, no matter which method of selecting board members is used. A committee formed for the purpose of conducting a nation-wide candidate search for candidates for CEO/Superintendent should include members from community groups, parent groups, the principal's association, and the Chicago Teachers Union.
- To improve oversight, the Board of Education should have the primary role in selecting a Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent, no matter which method of selecting board members is used.
- To provide accountability and to restore trust there should be an independent audit committee that reports to the Board of Education, no matter which method of selecting board members is used.

C. Community Engagement:

- To engage the community in a meaningful way, there should be a district-wide advisory council to advise the board on facilities utilization and school closings.
- The Board of Education should determine community preference for the type of schools to be located within that community.

Adopted 2016