Outcomes - Portrait of an Effective Board Member

Each group was asked to consider and brainstorm characteristics and traits of effective board members and come to consensus with their table partners on a "Top Ten" list.

Group 1:

- Common good
- Effective communicators to all board members
- Realize their role & responsibility
- Take advantage of ways to improve your experience
- Exercise patience
- Listen!
- Be prepared!
- Stick to the topic – focus
- Respect the chain-of-command

Group 2:

- Good listener
- No personal agenda
- Willing to learn district
- No micromanaging
- Team players – show up invested
- Follow rules of the BOE
- Open minded
- Agree to disagree
- Diversity
- Decision maker even when unpopular topic
- Show up, get trained, invested in BOE service
- Flexible
- Accountable
- Humble

Group 3:

- Focus / Mission
- Empathic – selfless
- Courageous
- Compassionate
- Knowledgeable and experienced

Group 4:

- Respectful of each other
- Listen for understanding
- No surprises with Superintendent
- No surprises with Board Members
- Non-partisan
- Open minded
- Engaged in training
- Informed of issues
- Accept consensus

Group 5:

- Humble
- Empathetic and selfless
- Straightforward and transparent
- Honest and trustworthy
- Ethical and principled
- Accountable
- Fair and open minded
- Confident and optimistic
- Passionate
- Flexible
- Courageous
- Hardworking

Group 6:

- Ability to delegate without interfering in day-to-day matters
- Good listeners
- Well-trained or being able to be coachable
- Flexible
- Seasoned, insightful
- Humble

Group 7:

- Open-minded (listen to fellow members) and growth mindset
- Understand how process works. How can a board member achieve goals?
- Consensus building
- Engaged with board / community / school environment
- Understand community values
- Ethical and trustworthy from community perspective
- Student needs first / progress / achievements
- Knowledgeable and experienced (does research and institutional knowledge)
- Lean into those who have more experience
- Professional Development / network
- Understand how to create best practices by networking and look outside your own district
- Ability to make hard decisions (courageous)