


The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

Commandments for the Governance Team

**THEY GOVERNANCE TEAM
SHALL KEEP THE BEST
INTEREST OF STUDENTS
AS THE PRIORITY!**

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- ▶ Today's quality of public education will determine the future quality of our nation; our people, government, military, economy, and our communities.
 - ▶ The Governance Team gives direction, provides stability, and instills confidence in the staff and community.

- ▶ School Districts perform best when there is a strong partnership between the Board and the Superintendent. This partnership doesn't develop by chance; the Superintendent and the Board members must carefully cultivate it to become a team.


**THOU SHALL SERVE WITH
DIGNITY AND HUMOR!**

John Adams Quote

“We may please ourselves with the prospect of free and popular governments. But there is great danger that those governments will not make us happy. God grant that they may. But I fear in every assembly members will obtain an influence by noise, not sense. By meanness not greatness. By ignorance, not learning. By contracted hearts, not large souls...There must be decency and respect and veneration introduced for persons of authority of every rank, or we are undone.”

THOU SHALT UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE AS A TRUSTEE!

- ▶ A Trustee's job is not to run the District well, but to see the District is well run.
- ▶ Your actions and decisions, both individually and collectively, should always be guided by what is **best for the students** of the District; your personal commitment should never stray from a determination to provide the best possible education for each student.

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- ▶ Your authority, your power as a Trustee lies not with you as an individual, but rather with you as a **member of the team**. It is the Board, **not an individual**, that establishes the policies which provide direction for the District.
 - ▶ Remember, you were elected to be a Trustee, **not an administrator**.

- ▶ Your role is to establish policy and set goals. It is up to the Superintendent to manage the District and get it where the Board says it needs to go.
- ▶ Trustees do not get into the day-to-day running of the District; there are no scenarios where the Board decides who gets what job or which elementary school gets a particular piece of playground equipment.

- ▶ Significant instructional change will not occur unless the Governance Team shows strong, passionate leadership and focuses on instruction.

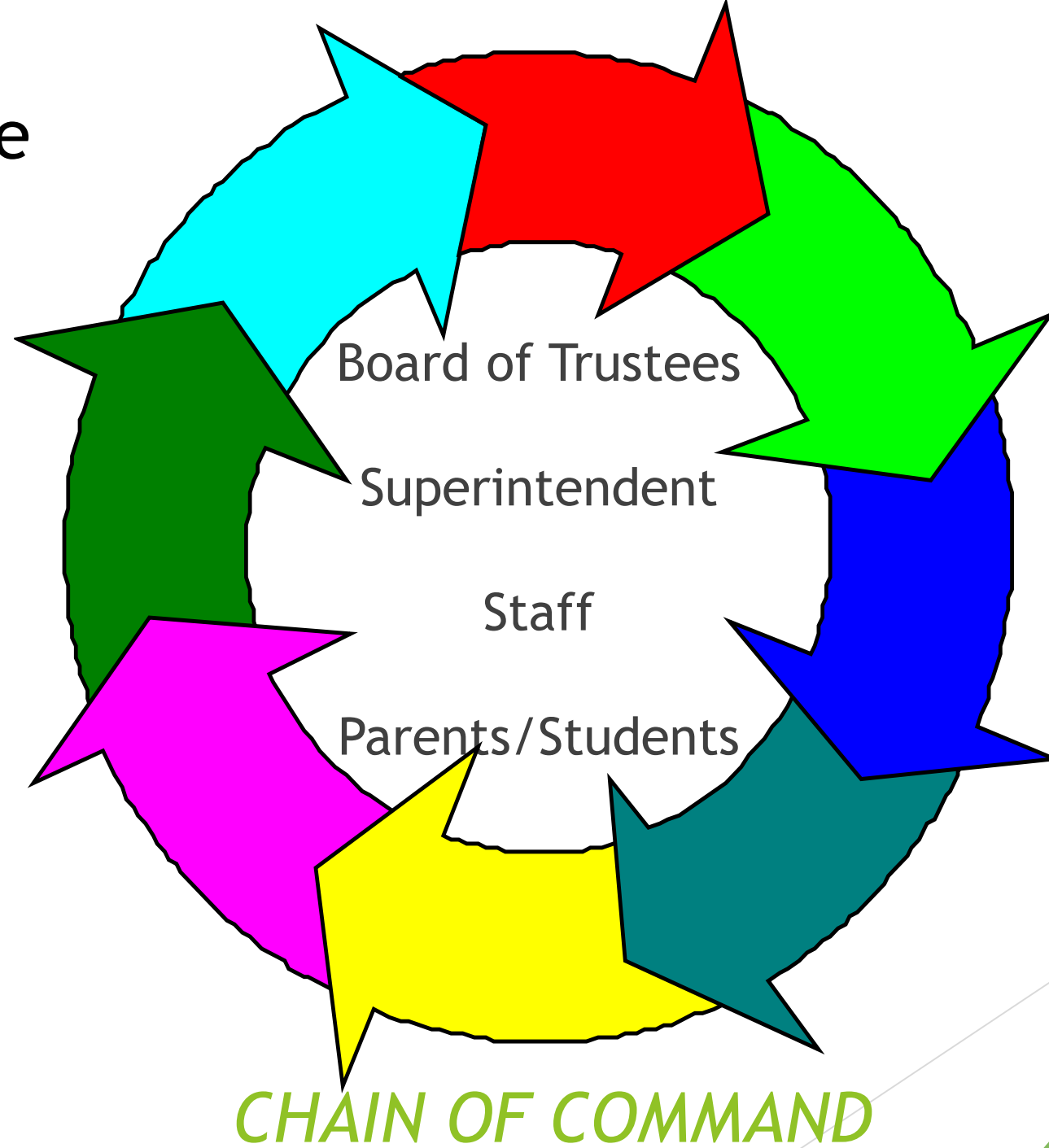
How students think, how they best learn, and how schools can best serve their diverse population is the key question for the 21st century leader.

- ▶ New? Do your homework - Review Board meeting minutes from the past six meetings to become familiar with issues being discussed by the Board.

**THOU SHALL ALWAYS FOLLOW
THE CHAIN OF COMMAND!**

- ▶ The Board's only employee is the Superintendent, and the Board gives instruction to him or her alone.
 - If the issue will affect the entire **organization**, it is a **policy**.
 - If the issue will affect an **individual** employee, it is most likely **administrative** in nature.
 - Remember, there are fields of grey!

Remember -
Authority can be
delegated, but
accountability
cannot.



THOU SHALT HOLD CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE!

- ▶ Closed session agenda items must be kept confidential! You have to be able to trust each other, and it is the law!

THERE SHALL BE NO SURPRISES AT A BOARD MEETING!

- ▶ Adopt a “no secrets - no surprises” policy.
- ▶ Do not surprise your Superintendent, fellow Board Members, or administrators at your meeting in public with unexpected comments or requests.

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PULLING TOGETHER

ONLY WORKS WHEN YOU'RE NOT JERKING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS LIKE IDIOTS.

THOU SHALL COME PREPARED FOR BOARD MEETINGS!

- ▶ Review your Board packet before the meeting.
- ▶ If you have questions, call the Superintendent.
- ▶ If you have not read your Board packet ...
 - Open it before you get out of the car
 - Don't ask too many questions that expose ignorance resulting from your lack of preparation

Never forget ...

**A School Board meeting is a
meeting held in public,
not a public meeting!
(unless on agenda)**



How Long Should a School Board Meeting Last?

- ▶ Google it and you might be surprised ...
- ▶ How are you doing?
- ▶ Review of meeting evaluation tool
- ▶ Periodic Evaluation - The Board and the Superintendent should evaluate the work of the District. The objective of the evaluation should be improvement.

THOU SHALT NOT EXPECT UNANIMOUS VOTES ALL THE TIME

Expect to be in the minority on Board decisions once in a while, and accept the majority decision graciously. The time to voice your opinions about issues is before the vote is taken.

THOU SHALT REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE CONTROVERSY... THIS TOO WILL PASS

- ▶ Deal with issues and interest, not power and positions.
 - **Agree to disagree, but don't be disagreeable.**
 - **Ensure that split decisions do not result in a split Governance Team!**

THOU SHALL NOT SPEND MORE MONEY THAN THOU HASETH!

Trustees:

- ▶ Adopt and oversee the annual budget and allocate resources to the needs of the District.
- ▶ Adopt policies that give the District direction to set priorities and achieve its goals.
- ▶ Set perimeters for the collective bargaining process to guide the process.

FCMAT Predictors of School Agencies Needing Intervention

1. Leadership Breakdown
2. Ineffective Communication
3. Collapse of Infrastructure
4. Inadequate Budget Development
5. Limited Budget Monitoring
6. Poor Position Control
7. Ineffective Management Information Systems
8. Inattention to Categorical Programs
9. Substantial Long-Term Debt Commitments
10. Human Resources Crisis
11. Related Issues of Concern

**THOU SHALT FOLLOW THE
GOVERNANCE HANDBOOK!**

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, DEVELOP ONE!