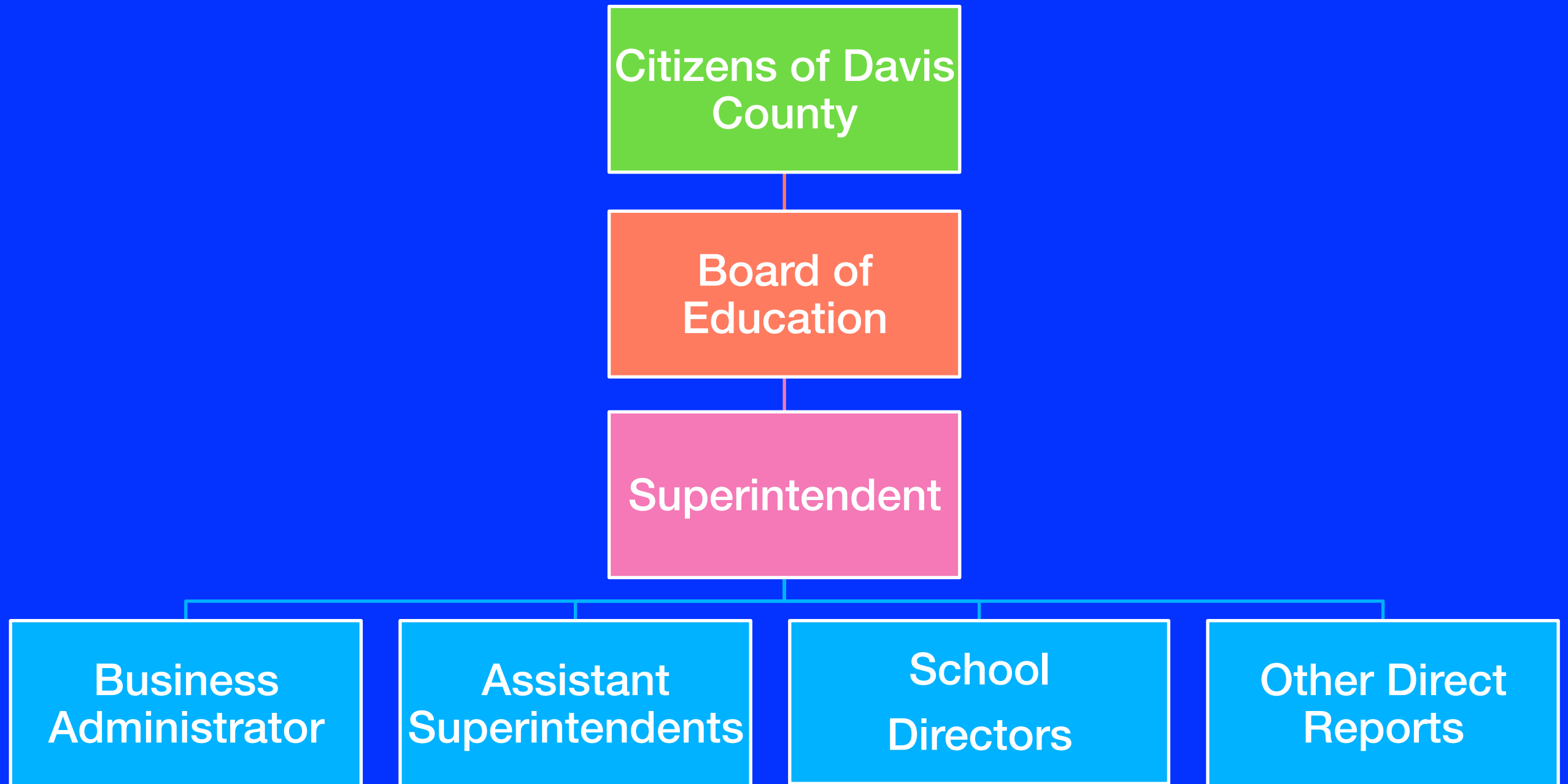


Community Engagement

Julie Tanner
Davis School Board

USBA Leadership Academy
September 15, 2017

DSD Organization Chart



Key Work of School Boards

“Community engagement is central to the school board’s role. Governance in the age of public accountability cannot use the script ‘We’re the professionals. Come listen to us, and we’ll tell you what you need to know.’ As the governors of the school district, board members come into office knowing that they represent the community that put them there . . .

“Effective boards make deliberate, ongoing efforts to establish and maintain protocols and procedures that actively seek the community’s voice and enlist its commitment to the public schools.”

-- NSBA Key Work of School Boards, p. 68 --

What Counts



Best Outcomes:

- Trust
- Unity
- Feeling heard
- Respect for varying viewpoints

Individual Board Member Authority

“Individual board members hold an office of shared authority and responsibility.”

-- Board Policies 5.1 --

“Each board member has a responsibility to reach and support group decisions which represent the best judgment of the board as a whole.

“Individual board members are not precluded from voicing minority viewpoints, either during or outside official board meetings, but should indicate that such viewpoints are personal and not board, opinions.”

-- Board Policies 5.5.3 --

Other Ideas for Community Engagement

Canyons School District

(Nancy Tingey)

- Town Halls (2–3 board members)
- Request feedback (through district administration) from:
 - Teacher reps
 - Teacher survey/poll
 - Committees
 - School Community Councils
- Have three readings on anything that has a big impact
- Patron comment time

Other Ideas for Community Engagement

Jordan School District

- Policies on community engagement (see their website)

Park City School District [smaller district] (Julie Eihausen)

- Town Halls (entire board)
- Weekly Coffees with Superintendent (usually 1-2 board reps)
- Community members on Strategic Planning Commission
- Share patron emails received on subject
- Ask building leader team if they would like board rep to attend

Group Sharing Activity

What are some effective things your board has done to increase community engagement?

Closing Thoughts

Always remind administration: “We value input from those who will be affected by this decision.”

