

Communications with Staff and Students**Board-Staff Communications**

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) recognizes the need to maintain open communication between itself and the staff. Essentially, communications with staff deal with three (3) general areas – administration, policy, and philosophy. While the Board recognizes the necessity for Board-Staff communications, it also recognizes that administrative matters must be dealt with through the Superintendent. The basic line of communication for administrative matters shall be through the Superintendent.

A. Staff Communications to the Board

Staff members are also reminded that Board meetings are public meetings. As such, they provide an excellent opportunity to observe and participate first hand in the Board's deliberations on problems of staff concern.

B. Board Communication to Staff

All official communications, policies, and directives of staff interest and concern will be communicated to staff members through the Superintendent.

C. Social Interaction

Staff and Board members share an interest in the school and education in general, and it is to be expected that when they meet at social affairs and other functions, they will informally discuss such matters as educational trends, issues, and innovations and general school concerns. Individual Board members have no special authority except when they are convened at a legal meeting of the Board or are vested with special authority by Board action. Board members are expected to avoid discussion of:

1. matters that are, or have the potential of becoming, the subject of an executive session;
2. information and data contained in personnel records protected by the Privacy Act.

D. Visits to School

Individual Board members interested in visiting the school or classrooms will make arrangements for visitations through the Superintendent. Such visits shall be regarded as informal expressions of interest in school affairs and not as "inspections" or visits for supervisory or administrative purposes. Official visits by Board members will be conducted only under Board authorization and with the full knowledge of staff, building administrators and other supervisors.

Board-Student Communications

Students, individually or as part of a group, are welcome to speak at Board meetings during Visitors Comments. Board communications to students are conducted through the Superintendent. Student representatives shall be able to attend and sit at all meetings of the Board and its permanent committees normally deemed open to the public. Student representatives, however, shall not have the power to speak as official representatives of the Board.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220

Bylaw adopted: February 10, 2016

Bylaw revised: April 8, 2020