

NEGOTIATIONS/CONSULTATION

The Board of Trustees recognizes its responsibility to represent the public's interests in the collective bargaining process. In negotiating agreements on employee contracts, the Board shall balance the needs of staff and the priorities of the district in order to provide students with a high-quality instructional program based on a sound, realistic budget.

The Board shall negotiate in good faith with exclusive employee representatives on wages, hours of employment, and other terms and conditions of employment identified in law as being within the scope of representation. (Government Code 3543.2)

The Board believes that effective negotiations require the input of all levels of the administration. The Board shall designate a chief negotiator to establish a bargaining team to assist in analyzing contract provisions and conducting contract negotiations.

The Board and Superintendent shall provide its negotiator(s) with expected outcomes and clear parameters for acceptable contract provisions which promote the realization of district goals and priorities.

In consultation with the Superintendent and employee organization, the Board shall determine the collective bargaining approach or method to be used.

The Board with its bargaining team shall establish standards of conduct pertaining to the negotiations process for individual Board members and members of the bargaining team. Certain meetings related to negotiations shall be held in closed session in accordance with Government Code 3549.1 when not required by state open meeting laws (the Brown Act) to be held in public. Matters discussed in these meetings shall be kept in strict confidence.

The Board and its negotiator(s) shall not knowingly provide the employee organization with inaccurate information regarding the financial resources of the district. (Government Code 3543.5)

The Board shall closely monitor the progress of negotiations and carefully consider how proposed contract provisions would affect the district's short- and long-term fiscal, programmatic, instructional, and personnel goals.

The Board and/or Superintendent shall keep the public informed about the progress of negotiations and the ways in which negotiations may affect district goals.

Whenever the district has a qualified or negative certification on an interim fiscal report, it shall allow the county office of education at least 10 working days to review and comment on any proposed agreement with exclusive representatives of employees. The district shall provide the County Superintendent of Schools with all information relevant to gain an understanding of the financial impact of any final collective bargaining agreement. (Government Code 3540.2)

NEGOTIATIONS/CONSULTATION (continued)

Once the final terms of the agreement have been ratified by the membership of the employee organization, the contract shall be presented to the Board at a public meeting for acceptance. Any agreement adopted by the Board may be for a term not to exceed three years. (Government Code 3540.1)

In the event of an impasse in negotiations, the Board shall participate in good faith in state mediation and fact-finding procedures pursuant to Government Code 3548-3548.8. (Government Code 3543.5)

Following adoption of the collective bargaining agreement, any subsequent amendments shall be executed in writing by the Board and the employees' exclusive representative.

Legal Reference:

GOVERNMENT CODE
3540-3549.3 Educational Employment Relations Act