

BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Code **BBAA** Issued **11/12**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure of the authority and responsibilities of the board and its members.

Because all powers of the board of trustees lie in its action as a group, individual board members exercise their authority over district affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal meeting of the board.

In other instances, an individual board member, including the chairperson, will have power only when the board, by vote, has delegated authority to him/her. The board will not be bound in any way by any action or statement on the part of any individual board member not delegated by the board.

The board and its members will deal with administrative services through the superintendent and will not give orders to any subordinates of the superintendent either publicly or privately, but may make suggestions and recommendations to the superintendent.

The board will make its members, the district staff and the public aware through its actions and policies that only the board acting as a whole has authority to take official action.

The members of the board of trustees are officers of the state. Constitutional provisions which apply to officers apply to school board members.

Adopted 6/2/80; Revised 6/2/97, 11/5/12

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Constitution:
 - 1. Article II, Sections 3 & 4 – Definition of Qualified Electors.
 - 2. Article XVII, Section 1 & 1A – Qualifications for Office and Prohibition against Dual Office Holding.
- B. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 7-5-120 – Qualifications for Voter Registration.
 - 2. Title 8 – Deals with Rights and Responsibilities of Public Officers.
 - 3. Section 59-15-50 – Oath of Board Members.
- C. Attorney General Opinion:
 - 1. 1960-61, No. 1092, -. 164 – Any action taken by the board of trustees must be taken at a regularly called and assembled meeting with a quorum present.