

BOARD BYLAWS

Limits of Board Member Authority

The Governing Board recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the district and that a Board member has no individual authority. Board members shall hold the education of students above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)
(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee. Individual Board members shall submit requests for information to the Superintendent and Board President. Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent and Board President for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda, as appropriate.

The Board recognizes the importance of preventing the abuse of authority, or perceived authority, by individual Board Members. The Board also recognizes the importance of establishing policies that support a positive and safe work environment for district employees to perform their duties. Employees who perceive pressure to provide services commanded or requested by an individual Board Member are encouraged to use the chain of command until the District Superintendent is notified and the situation is remedied first by the Superintendent, or at the discretion of the Superintendent, by the collective Board.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Individual Board members do not have the authority to resolve complaints. Any Board member approached directly by a person with a complaint should refer the complainant to the Superintendent or designee so that the problem may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)
(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

A Board member whose child is attending a district school should be aware of his/her role as a Board member when interacting with district employees about his/her child. Because his/her

position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of school personnel, the Board member should inform the Superintendent or designee before volunteering in his/her child's classroom.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)
(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the state's open meeting laws (Brown Act) to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board but has not yet assumed office.

Board members and persons elected to the Board who have not yet assumed office are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.1)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

7054 Use of district property

351010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35100-35351 Governing boards, especially:

35160-35184 Powers and duties

35291 Rules

35292 Visits to schools (Board members)

51101 Rights of parents/guardians

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54962 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body of a local agency

54952.7 Copies of chapter to members of legislative body

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

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