School Board Governance and Operations

Board Member Authority and Responsibilities

By legal definition the school board is an elected body created according to the laws of the state to serve as the governing board of a school district for the purpose of organizing, maintaining and locating schools and for providing educational opportunities and services for all citizens residing within the school district.

The chief function of the school board is to provide for the progress and welfare of all of the schools under its control, and to scrutinize the policies which govern its organization and operation. The Board functions only when it is convened in regular or special meeting which has been legally called. An individual Board member has no authority to speak for the Board unless such authority is delegated by the Board.

The School Board is responsible for formulating policies for the general management of the schools in the district. It shall delegate administrative authority to the superintendent of schools, but shall be responsible to the people for the results produced.

1. The Board acts as a policy making body and through its own action legislates to make effective these policies.

2. The Board acts as an appraisal body rendering judgment upon recommendations that may come to it through its executive officer, its own members, or the public which concern the progress and improvement of the schools.

3. The Board shall sit as a judicial body when the superintendent requests a hearing or on an appeal for any student, school employee or group of employees.
The Board shall:

1. Select and hire a superintendent of schools who is the chief executive officer of the school district.

2. Adopt the annual budget for the support of education in the district.

3. Carefully deliberate on all issues to be considered. The majority action of the School Board on a given issue should become the policy of the entire School Board until such time as the question is again raised for consideration.

4. Act upon recommendations of the superintendent regarding:
   a. matters of policy
   b. hiring, layoffs, and terminations of all personnel
   c. selection of courses of study
   d. adoption and approval of salaries for all employees
   e. approve the accounts and audits of the business control of the District
   f. study and approve the reports of the superintendent and his/her staff
   g. interpret the program and represent the needs of the schools before the public

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

School Board members have authority only when acting as a school board legally in session. The School Board shall not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of any individual Board member or employee except when such statement or action is in pursuance of specific instruction by the School Board.

Policy Board Action
Adopted: February 15, 1999
Amended: August 26, 2019