

Bylaws of the Board

Board Members

Limits of Board Members Authority

The Governing Board is the unit of authority over the district. It has broad but clearly limited powers. The exercise of its authority is restricted to the functions required or permitted by law, and then only when it acts in a legally constituted meeting. (cf. 9000 - Role of Board and Members)

The Board member has no individual authority. Individually, the Board member may not commit the district to any policy, act or expenditure. The Board member cannot do business with the district served, nor should the Board member have an interest in any contract with the school district. The Board member represents and acts for the community as a whole and does not represent any fractional segment of the community. (cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

Individual members of the Board, by virtue of holding office, 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. At his/her discretion, the Superintendent may refer the request to the entire Board for consideration. If approved, the Superintendent or designee shall perform any necessary research associated with the request and report to the Board at a future meeting. (cf. 1340 - Access to District Records) (cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

Because his/her position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of school personnel, a Board member shall not serve as a volunteer aide in the district without the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

Obligations of Board Members

Board members should hold the education of children and youth above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

Board members should understand their role and the programs offered by the district. They should study all agenda materials before the meeting, participate in the discussion of items which come before the Board, vote on motions and resolutions, and abstain only for compelling reasons. (cf. 9240 - Board Development) (cf. 9271 - Code of Ethics) (cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent or designee for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda. (cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Board members and persons elected to the Board are responsible for complying with the requirements of the state's open meeting laws.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the Brown Act to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board.

(Legal Reference next page)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7054	Use of district property
35010	Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
35100-35351	Governing boards - esp.
35160-35184	Powers and duties
35230-35240	Corrupt practices
35291	Rules
35292	Visits to schools (Board members)

GOVERNMENT CODE

54952.1	Member of a legislative body of a local agency
54952.7	Copies of chapter to members of legislative body
54959	Penalty for unlawful meetings

Adopted: 10-00

Santa Ana, CA