

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: April 29, 2025

NUMBER: 25-120

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BB 9200 -
Board Members; First
Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Track 1: Operational Improvements
Initiative: Optimize Business Practices

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BB 9200 - Board Members and open for public comments.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when the law changes or specific needs occur. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board.

This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BB 9200 - Board Members within the Board Bylaw series.

This bylaw update adds further clarity to how complaints brought to the board should be addressed and requires board approval for legal opinions. The complaint process was clarified with AASB and the verbiage has been updated to reflect when a board member should go to the Superintendent. The bylaw has also been revised to clarify that no board members should abstain from a vote absent a compelling reason to do so.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BB 9200 - Board Members as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BB 9200 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BB 9200 - Board Members as presented and open for public comments.

BB 9200 BOARD MEMBERS

Limits of Board Members Authority

The School Board 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. Board members have authority only in regularly called meetings of the Board, or when delegated specific tasks by Board action. Individual Board members shall submit requests for research or administrative studies to the entire Board for consideration.

The Board is the unit of authority. An individual Board member is a part of the governing body which represents and acts for the community as a whole. Apart from the normal function as part of the unit, the Board member has no individual authority. No individual member of the Board, by virtue of holding office, shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools; nor, as an individual, command the services of any school employee. Individually, the Board member may not commit the district to any policy, act or expenditure.

School visits by Board members are encouraged. Site Administrators should receive a courtesy call in advance of a visit. Board members, as with all visitors, must check in with the school office. Board members who visit schools of their own volition have no more authority than any other citizen. Board members have authority only in regularly called meetings of the Board, or when delegated specific tasks by Board action.

(cf. 1250 - Visits to the Schools)

<u>Note: The following is an optional process for Board members to make information requests.</u>

Board Member Requests for Information

Board members should make informed decisions on matters before them for a vote. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for providing the Board with relevant materials to inform the Board on those matters on which it is to act. If Board members desire further information, a request for information shall be directed to the Superintendent, pursuant to the following guidelines:

1. Requests for simple facts. Any Board member may make a request for simple facts to the Superintendent who will forward the request to the appropriate staff member. All responses to requests for simple facts will be provided to the requesting Board member and copied to the Board President.

2. Requests for reports, research, administrative studies, detailed information, or for information relating to a problem or a potential problem in the District. Some information requests require significant administrative time and explanation to provide the requested response. Individual Board members shall submit such requests to the full

Board for consideration. Upon [concurrence of the other board members/majority request of the Board], the request shall then be forwarded to the Superintendent for response.

3. Complaints regarding personnel. Board members may have their own concerns and complaints regarding District personnel. Informal concerns should be privately communicated to the Superintendent. Formal complaints should be in writing and follow the District complaint policies. Board members may notify the Superintendent that they have filed a formal complaint.

4. When Board members receive complaints or requests for action from staff, students or members of the public, the Board members will direct the staff, students, members of the public to the appropriate complaint policy. Such information will be conveyed to the Superintendent.

5. Requests for legal advice or opinions by a Board member that will incur a cost for the district must be approved by a majority vote of the Board before the request is made to legal counsel. Legal counsel is responsible to the Board.

(cf. 6162.8 - Research)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

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~~No members of the Board shall be asked to perform any routine or clerical duties which may be assigned to an employee, nor shall any Board member become an employee of his/her district while serving on the Board.~~

~~A Board member should resign from the Board before seeking to secure district employment. In no event shall a final decision for hire be made prior to receiving the Board member's resignation.~~

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and other Benefits)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

~~Board members who visit schools of their own volition have no more authority than any other citizen. Board members have authority only in regularly called meetings of the Board, or when delegated specific tasks by Board action.~~

Commented [AE1]: This is not in the AASB Model BB 9200.

(cf. 1250 - Visits to the Schools)

Obligations of Members

Members of the Board must ~~endeavor~~ make strong efforts ~~make strong efforts~~ to attend all meetings, study all materials presented with the agenda prior to attending the meeting, participate in the discussion of any items which come before the Board, and vote on all motions and resolutions, abstaining only for compelling reasons. If no compelling reason requires abstention, members of the Board shall not abstain.

If a Board Member knows they will be unable to attend scheduled meetings, worksession, or committee assignments they must notify the Board President ~~or and the~~ Superintendent's Office of this intended absence. ~~If a Board Member notifies the Superintendent's Office with a request for an excused absence, this information will be communicated to the Board President for his/her decision and action.~~

Commented [AE2]: This is not in the Model AASB policy.

The Board member should not ~~place subordinate the education of children and youth to~~ any partisan principle, group interest, or the member's own personal interest ~~above the education of children and youth.~~

The Board member should be prepared and willing to devote a sufficient amount of time to the study of the problems of education in the district, the state, and the nation in order to interpret them to the people of the district.

(cf. 9230 - Meetings)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.14.140 *Restrictions on employment*

Adoption Date: May 23, 1995

Revision Date: June 6, 2023

Revision Date:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District