

Document Status: Draft

Policy Required: No

BB 9200 BOARD MEMBERS

New/Unpublished Section

Note: The following sample bylaw may be revised to reflect district philosophy and needs.

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 School Board, or when delegated specific tasks by School Board action.

The School Board is the unit of authority. The School 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 School Board member has no individual authority. No individual member of the School 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 School Board member may not commit the district to any policy, act or expenditure.

Optional:

School visits by Board members are encouraged. Principals 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.

(cf. 1250 - Visits to the Schools)

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

Board Member Requests for Information

School Board members should make informed decisions on matters before them for a vote. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for providing the School Board with relevant materials to inform the School Board on those matters on which it is to act. If School 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 School Board member may make a request for simple facts to the Superintendent or designee who will forward the request to the appropriate staff member. All responses to requests for simple facts will be provided to the requesting School Board member, and copied to the School 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 School Board members shall submit such requests to the full School Board for consideration. Upon [concurrence of the other board members/majority request of the School Board], the request shall then be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee for response.
3. Complaints regarding personnel. School Board members may have their own complaints regarding District personnel. These concerns should be privately communicated to the Superintendent or designee.
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, and 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)

Obligations of Members

Members of the School Board must endeavor 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 School 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.

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

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*

Revised 9/2023 5/2024

AASB POLICYREFERENCE MANUAL

9/92