

Existing bylaw, number 9011 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Accountability

The public is accountable for:

1. Maintaining a vigorous interest in, concern for, and constructive criticism of the schools;
2. Electing the most able men and women available to represent them on the Board of Education;
3. Providing the resources necessary for the Board and staff to accomplish publicly endorsed goals and objectives of the school district.

The Board is accountable for:

1. Being responsive to the community's desires and concerns regarding the quality and performance of the school system;
2. Carrying out its mandate to plan, to make policy, and to lead in the identification of goals and objectives;
3. Requesting the resources necessary for the achievement of the goals and objectives through the budget process;
4. Evaluating the degree to which the goals and objectives are accomplished;
5. Selecting and evaluating the Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent is accountable for:

1. Providing creative professional leadership counsel and management in all aspects of the school district programs;
2. Being responsive to the Board of Education's desires and concerns regarding the quality and performance of the school district;
3. Effecting the policies, goals and objectives established by the Board of Education;
4. Providing fiscal leadership in the implementation of the budget process;
5. **Overseeing the selection** ~~Selecting~~ and ~~evaluation~~ ~~ing~~ of all professional staff.

The administration, the teachers and other employees are accountable for:

1. Achieving the goals and objectives related to their stated job responsibilities;
2. Being responsive to the Superintendent of School's desires and concerns regarding the quality and performance of their job responsibilities;
3. Maintaining communications with students, parents and the community regarding their stated job responsibilities;
4. Conforming to the policies established by the Board of Education.

Bylaws of the Board

Accountability

The parents are accountable for:

1. Providing an atmosphere that supports the education of their child;
2. Maintaining close communication with the school.

The students are accountable for:

1. Diligently pursuing their own learning;
2. Following the rules of the school district.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-220 Duties of boards of education.

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Community Relations

Relations Between Public and School Personnel

Conduct on School Property

The Board of Education (Board) expects mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among all individuals on school property or at school events or **in communications with the school district**. District staff will treat parents and other members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The Board is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes in keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering school/district grounds.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among Board members, district employees, parents and the public. It is not intended to deprive any individual of his/her right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free environment for students and staff. Volatile, hostile or aggressive actions and words cannot be tolerated, and individuals who engage in these activities may face legal penalties.

In the interest of presenting Board members and District employees as positive role models to the students as well as to the community, the Board encourages positive communication and discourages volatile, hostile or aggressive actions. The Board seeks public cooperation with this endeavor.

Staff may not always be immediately available to speak with families. The best way to ensure communication can occur with administration or staff is to schedule an appointment. Staff and administration have a practice of attempting to return calls/emails within 24 hours.

Based upon the above, the Board expects that no person on school property or at a school event or **in communication with the school district** shall:

1. Injure, threaten, harass or intimidate a staff member, Board member or any other person;
2. Curse and use obscenities;
3. Disrupt or threaten to disrupt school or office operations;
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property;
5. Damage or deface District property;
6. Violate any Connecticut law or town/city ordinance;
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products;
8. Consume, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, or possess dangerous instruments or weapons;
9. Impede, delay, or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of the District's educational program or any other activity occurring on school property;
10. Enter upon any portion of the school premises at any time for purposes other than those which are lawful and authorized by the Board;
11. Operate a motor vehicle in a risky manner or in violation of an authorized District employee's directive; or
12. Violate other District policies or regulations or an authorized District employee's directive.

Standards for a peaceful, safe, respectful school environment:

A. Expected behaviors include but are not limited to:

1. Respect and courtesy in language, demeanor, and actions
2. Moderate tone and volume of voice
3. Active and respectful listening
4. Respectful acknowledgement of cultural differences
5. Respect for the personal, civil, and property rights of others
6. Appropriate and courteous use of telephone, public address systems, electronic devices and any other verbal communication device
7. Appropriate and courteous written communication, including notes, letters, email and text messages

B. Unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to:

1. Rude, insulting or demeaning language and/or actions, **either in person, by email/text, voice/phone or other written or verbal communication**
2. Persistently **pursuing** unreasonable ~~demands~~ **requests**
3. Intrusive and/or interruptive behavior
4. Displays of temper
5. Harassment and intimidation
6. Threatening and/or abusive gestures and behavior
7. **Posting disparaging remarks on social media**

C. Incidents of uncivil behavior should be resolved cooperatively with the individual(s) most directly involved. **Following the protocol and chain of command to air concerns is expected. Start with teacher, then building administration then District Office then Board of Education if concerns are not addressed and/or resolved.**

D. If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting and/or demeaning manner, the staff member to whom the remarks are directed will calmly and politely admonish the speaker to communicate civilly. If the abusing party does not take corrective action, the District employee will terminate the meeting or conversation.

(cf. [1110.1](#) - Parent Involvement)

(cf. [1120](#) - Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings)

(cf. [1250](#) - Visits to Schools)

(cf. [1251](#) - Loitering or Causing Disturbances)

(cf. [1310](#) - Relations Between the Public and School Personnel)

(cf. [1312](#) - Public Complaints)

(cf. [1330](#) - Use of School Facilities)

(cf. [1700](#) - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property)

(cf. 6145.71 - Use of Alcohol by Adults)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1-225](#) Meetings of the government agents to be public.

[1-232](#) Conduct of the meeting

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rule(s), policies, and procedures.

10-238 Petition for hearing by board of education.

10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes.

53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class C misdemeanor.

Policy adopted:

Existing bylaw, number 9121 adopted 6/20/22, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Chairperson

A Chairperson of the Woodbridge Board of Education shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Board biannually at the organizational meeting of the Board. There is no restriction on the number of terms a Board member may serve as Chairperson.

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board, appoint committees, sign financial and other records of the Board, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, State Department of Education regulations, or the action of the Board.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board.
2. Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the Board's agendas.
3. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters which may occur between Board meetings.
4. Appoint members to committees in accordance with Bylaws 9132 and 9133.
5. Call special meetings of the Board as necessary.
6. Be public spokesperson for the Board at all times except as this responsibility is specifically delegated to others.
7. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings.

As presiding officer at all meetings of the Board, the Chairperson shall:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time.
2. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order.
3. Enforce the Board's policies relating to the order of business and the conduct of the meetings.
4. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference.
5. Explain what the effect of a motion would be if it is not clear to every member.
6. Restrict discussion to the question when a motion is before the Board.
7. Answer all parliamentary inquiries, referring questions of legality to the Board attorney.
8. Put motions to a vote, stating definitely and clearly the vote and result thereof.
9. Declare the meeting adjourned.

Bylaws of the Board

Chairperson (continued)

The Chairperson shall have the right, as other Board members have, to offer resolutions, discuss questions, and to vote.

The Chairperson of the Board may be removed as Chairperson by the affirmative vote of six (6) members taken at a duly constituted meeting for which the matter appeared as an agenda item.

(cf. 9121 - Bylaws of the Board of Education Officers)

(cf. 9132 - Standing Committees)

(cf. 9133 - Special Committees)

(cf. 9324 - Meeting Conduct and Parliamentary Procedure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings.

10-224 Duties of the Secretary.

10-225 Salaries of Secretary and Attendance Officers.

Existing bylaw, number 9122 adopted 7/18/22, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Vice-Chairperson

A Vice-Chairperson of the Woodbridge Board of Education shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Board bi-annually at the organizational meeting of the Board.

In the absence or inability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at Board meetings and shall perform such other duties of the Chairperson as necessary.

(cf. 9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings)
(cf. 9324 Meeting Conduct and Parliamentary Procedure)
(cf. 9121 Chairperson)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings.

10-224 Duties of the Secretary.

10-225 Salaries of Secretary and Attendance Officers.

Existing bylaw, number 9123 adopted 6/20/22, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Secretary of the Board

A Secretary of the Board of Education shall be selected by a majority of the members of the Board bi-annually at the organizational meeting of the Board.

In the absence of the Clerk of the Board, the Secretary shall record and maintain a record of all meetings and proceedings of the Board.

In the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary shall preside at Board meetings and perform such other duties as necessary.

(cf. 9324 - Meeting Conduct and Parliamentary Procedure)

(cf. 9121 - Bylaws of the Board of Education Officers)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings.

10-224 Duties of the Secretary.

10-225 Salaries of Secretary and Attendance Officers.

Existing bylaw, number 9124 adopted 10/17/11, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Clerk of the Board

The Woodbridge Board of Education shall be staffed by an individual who will serve as Clerk of the Board.

The Clerk of the Board shall be responsible for accurate records of the proceedings of the Board; and for the preservation of reports of committees and communications addressed to the Board; reports of the Chairperson and reports of the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers.

10-224 Duties of secretary.

10-225 Salaries of secretary and attendance officers.

Sample bylaw to consider.

Bylaws of the Board

Attorney

The attorney of the **Woodbridge** Board of Education shall be the legal advisor of the Board and its officers in questions related to their official duties.

A decision to seek legal advice or assistance on behalf of the District shall be made by the Superintendent or Board Chairperson in accordance with Board policy and when an obvious need exists.

Legal services required by the District may include, but not be limited to:

1. Providing general legal advice to the Board and/or administration;
2. Assisting with labor negotiations;
3. Assisting with personnel matters;
4. Assisting with expulsions and other disciplinary matters;
5. Conduct and/or assist with pending or actual litigation involving the District;
6. Other specialized legal services; and
7. Attendance at Board meetings or other activities as appropriate.

The Board retains the right to terminate the service of any attorney.

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

Existing bylaw, number 9150 adopted 10/17/11, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Board Consultants

The Woodbridge Board of Education will from time to time engage the services of qualified professional consultants to provide new insights and ideas for dealing with especially difficult problems and/or to provide special services which present staff is unable to provide. The kinds of assistance sought from consultants may include, but will not necessarily be limited to the following:

1. Conducting fact-finding studies, surveys, and research;
2. Providing counsel or services requiring special expertise; **and**
3. Assisting the Board in developing policy and program recommendations.

Before engaging a consultant, the Board may require submission of a written proposal which can be incorporated into a contract or purchase order if it satisfies the wishes of the Board. Proposals will detail:

1. The specific objectives to be accomplished by the consultant;
2. The specific tasks to be performed;
3. The procedures to be used in carrying out the tasks;
4. The target dates for completion of tasks;
5. The method to be used to report results to the Board and/or to deliver any product" (e.g., long-range plans, codified policy manual, etc.) to the Board; and
6. Costs.