

Bylaws of the Board

School Board Liaison to Local School

I. Statement of Policy's Purpose

The Board of Education believes it can become better informed and capable of making sound educational decisions when establishing effective regular communication with its schools. This policy aims to strengthen this by assigning each Board member to liaise with a designated school. This liaison role aims to foster improved relationships among the Board, staff, students, and community, while supporting informed and responsible governance.

II. Policy Statement

The Chair of the Bristol Board of Education shall assign each member to serve as a liaison to one or more district schools. The school liaison role is intended to facilitate communication, promote Board visibility, and support the schools in a non-administrative, non-evaluative capacity.

III. Guidelines

1. Assignment of Liaisons

- a. At the annual organizational meeting or as needed, the Board Chair assigns each member to one or more schools for the purpose of ensuring balanced representation across the district.
- b. Consideration shall be given to Board members' interests, geographic proximity, prior school relationships, ~~to avoid conflicts of interest.~~ and experience, to foster positive relationships and collaboration.

2. Scope of Liaison Responsibilities

- a. Serve as a communication bridge between the school and the Board, providing updates and relaying major concerns and information.
- b. Attend school events, open houses, and special programs when feasible.
- c. Meet periodically with the school principal to discuss general school climate.
- d. Share relevant information from the school with the Board while respecting confidentiality and avoiding involvement in day-to-day operations.

3. Limitations

- a. Liaisons shall not interfere with administrative decisions or personnel matters.
- b. Liaisons do not officially represent the Board unless authorized by the Board Chair.
- c. Liaisons are not evaluators or supervisors of school staff and shall avoid any action that may be perceived as such.

4. Communication and Reporting

- a. Liaisons are encouraged to provide informal, periodic updates to the Board on school visits or notable events.

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b. Any matters requiring Board action or administrative follow-up shall be directed to the Superintendent by the Board Chair

5. Training and Orientation

a. New Board members shall receive orientation on liaison responsibilities.

b. The Board may offer annual refreshers or share best practices among members.

The Board shall periodically review this policy and the effectiveness of the liaison program as part of its self-evaluation process or upon recommendation of the Board Chair or Superintendent.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-220 Duties of boards of education
 Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bristol, Connecticut