

DALHART INDEPENDENT

SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Board of Trustees primary task is to establish district policy. They are elected for three-year terms for which they receive no compensation. Prior to each meeting, trustees receive background materials on agenda items. By studying this information, they are prepared to ask pertinent questions and cast informed votes. A school board is a governmental body, so it can take action only by a majority vote. They are responsible for approving personnel actions, expenditures, property acquisitions and sales, school elections, and legal transactions. Their authority encompasses construction and maintenance authorizations, budget approval, bond elections and sales, tax rates, and the taking of bids on materials, equipment, property insurance and other items.

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Dalhart Independent School District Board Procedures

- I. Developing the Board Agenda
 - A. Deadline for submitting items for the agenda. BE (LOCAL)
 - 1. Noon of the sixth calendar day before a regular meeting.
 - 2. Noon the third calendar day before a special meeting.
 - B. Placing items on the agenda. BE(LOCAL)
 - 1. The Superintendent prepares the agenda in consultation with the Board President.
 - 2. Any Trustee may request a subject be included on the agenda. The request will be on the preliminary agenda.
 - 3. The Superintendent will finalize the agenda after consulting with the Board President.
 - 4. The President shall ensure that individual Trustees request are addressed on the agenda or scheduled for deliberation.
 - 5. The Board President shall not have the authority to remove a subject from the agenda without that Trustee's authorization.
 - C. Consent Agenda BE (LOCAL)
 - 1. In order to expedite the Board meetings and address routine and reoccurring business in an efficient manner, the Board will use a consent agenda to the greatest extent possible.
 - 2. If requested by a Board member, an item listed under the consent agenda shall be immediately withdrawn for separate discussion and acted upon individually.
- II. Member Conduct During a Board Meeting (Any time four or more Board members are gathered and deliberate on school business, it is considered a meeting.)
 - A. Board members are expected to attend and participate in duly called meetings of the Board. Board members should come to Board meetings prepared to discuss and take action on all items on the agenda. At a minimum, each Board member is expected to have done the following prior to arrival at every Board meeting:
 - 1. Studied the material in the Board Packet prior to arrival at every Board meeting; and
 - 2. Resolved questions by contacting the Superintendent or appropriate Central Office personnel.
 - B. Board policy BED(LOCAL) shall govern patrons wishing to address the Board in open forum.

- C. Board response to patrons addressing the Board: Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.
- D. Limit on participation: Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the portion of the meeting designated for that purpose. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless recognized by the presiding officer.
- E. Discussion of employee performance (Board/Audience):
 - 1. The Board will not entertain comments on individual District personnel in open session, unless required by law.
 - 2. The Board will not entertain comments on individual students in open session, unless required by law.
- F. The Board will use a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order to govern meetings.
- G. Discussion of motions:
 - 1. All deliberations will be solely related to agenda items.
 - 2. The Board President will insure deliberations remain germane to the agenda. Each Board member has the responsibility to ensure his/her comments remain focused on agenda items. The Board President will rule any deliberations that stray from the agenda as "out of order".
 - 3. The Board President will recognize Board members before they give their comments.

III. Voting

- A. The Board President may vote on all action items, but it is not required.
- B. All Board members, except the President will vote on all action items, except when there is a legal conflict of interest or a conflict that would impair the Board member's judgment in violation of Board member Ethics.
- C. All voting shall be by voice or show of hands and shall be recorded in the official minutes. No vote shall be by secret ballot.
- D. Each Board decision, even when there are dissenting votes, shall be an action by the whole Board and binding upon each member. Individual members are encouraged to express their opinions during the discussion of motions, but

following the vote, members shall publicly discuss only the decision of the whole Board.

IV. Individual Board Member Request for Information or Report

- A. All Board member requests for information must be in accordance with District policy BBE(LOCAL).
- B. The majority of the Board is required to request new reports.
- C. All board requests to the Superintendent for information will be reported to the full Board in the Board Packets.

V. Citizen Request/Complaint to Individual Board Member

- A. When a citizen complains to a Board member, the Board member shall:
 - 1. Remind the citizen of due process FNG(LOCAL) and GF(LOCAL) and that the Board member must remain impartial in case the situation goes before the Board.
 - 2. Refer citizen to the appropriate person in the chain-of-command.
 - 3. If appropriate, the Board member shall inform the Superintendent of the complaint.
- B. The Board member has no authority as an individual outside of a called Board meeting.

VI. Employee Request/Complaint to Individual Board Member

- A. When an employee complains to a Board member, the Board member shall:
 - 1. Remind the employee of the due process procedure DGBA(LOCAL) and that the Board member must remain impartial.
 - 2. Refer the employee to the appropriate person in the chain-of-command.
 - 3. If appropriate, the Board member should talk to the Superintendent in a timely fashion about the complaint.
- B. The Board member has no authority as an individual outside of a called Board meeting.

VII. Board Member Visit to School Campus

- A. Board members are encouraged to attend special events on campuses to represent the Board in support of activities.

- B. Board members are not to go into teacher's classrooms or campuses for the purpose of evaluation or investigation.
- C. Board members will notify administration of individual visits to campuses when they are not attending a scheduled activity.

VIII. Communications

- A. The Superintendent will communicate with the Board via voice, email, fax or newsletter.
- B. The Superintendent will be available to confer with Board members to discuss District issues on an as needed basis, communicating critical information to all Board members in a timely fashion.
- C. Board members will keep the Superintendent informed of critical issues as they become aware of them.
- D. The Board will communicate with the community through public hearings and regular Board meetings.
- E. Board members are Board members only in a duly called open meeting and cannot speak in an official capacity outside the Boardroom.
- F. Every effort will be made by the Board/Administrative Team to communicate effectively with each other so that decisions will be based upon the best information and facts available.

IX. Superintendent and Board Evaluations

- A. Evaluation of the Superintendent will be conducted in accordance with District policy BJCD(LOCAL). The evaluation instrument shall have been developed collaboratively between the Superintendent and Board, adopted in advance, and shall be based upon job related goals.
- B. The Board will develop and review a goal based evaluation instrument annually for the Superintendent.
- C. The Superintendent's evaluation is confidential by law.

X. Criteria and Process for Selecting Board Officers

- A. Selection of Board officers will be governed by District Policy BDAA(LOCAL).

- B. Officers will be elected for position of President, Vice-President, and Secretary.
- XI. Role and Authority of Board Member and/or Board Officers (as set by State statute and District Policy BBE and BDAA).
- A. No Board member or officer has authority except when the Board meeting is in session.
 - B. No Board member can direct employees in regard to performance of their duties.
 - C. With regard to hiring personnel, the following shall apply:
 - 1. The Superintendent shall make recommendations on all contractual personnel. The Board has final authority to approve or disapprove all contractual personnel.
 - 2. The Superintendent has final authority to hire noncontractual personnel on an at-will basis.
 - 3. The Principal must approve each teacher or staff appointment to the Principal's campus from a pool of applicants.
 - D. The Board corporately has the following authority:
 - 1. Govern and oversee the management of the District.
 - 2. Employ and appraise the Superintendent.
 - 3. Levy and collect taxes and issue bonds.
 - 4. Adopt and file an annual budget.
 - 5. Have District financial accounts audited by a Texas certified accountant at the conclusion of each fiscal year.
 - 6. Publish an annual report describing the District's educational performance.
 - 7. Receive bequest and donations.
 - 8. Select a depository for District funds.
 - 9. Call elections and canvass the returns.
 - 10. Acquire and hold real and personal property in the name of the District.
 - 11. Execute, perform, and make payments under contracts, including leases, leases with options to purchase, and installments.
 - 12. Exercise the right of eminent domain to acquire property.
 - 13. Adopt and periodically review District policy.
 - E. The President shall:
 - 1. Preside at all Board meetings.
 - 2. Appoint committees.
 - 3. Have the right to discuss, make motions and resolutions.

4. Vote when there is a tie. The President is not required to vote on every motion.
 5. Be an ex officio member of all committees.
- F. The Vice-President shall:
1. Act in the capacity of the President in the absence of the President.
 2. Automatically become President of the Board if a vacancy in that office occurs.

G. The Secretary shall:

1. Be responsible for accurate recording of Board meetings. This is usually delegated to a District employee.
2. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, call the meeting to order and act as presiding officer.
3. Ensure that notices of Board meetings are posted and sent as required by law.
4. Sign or countersign documents as directed by action of the Board.

XII. Role of the Board in Executive Session

- A. The Board can only discuss those items listed on the agenda and permitted by law in executive session.
- B. All votes must be made in public session.
- C. Information received during executive session must remain confidential.

XIII. Superintendent's Role and Authority

- A. The role of the Superintendent shall be the educational leader and chief executive officer of the District.
- B. The authority and duties of the Superintendent include:
 1. Assuming administrative responsibility and leadership for the planning, operation, supervision, and evaluation of the education programs, services, and facilities of the District and for the annual performance appraisal of the District's staff.
 2. Assuming administrative responsibility and leadership for the assignment and evaluation of all personnel of the District other than the Superintendent and making selection of such personnel.
 3. Initiating the termination or suspension of an employee or the nonrenewal of an employee's term contract.
 4. Managing the day-to-day operations of the District as its administrative manager.

5. Preparing and submitting to the Board a proposed budget.
6. Preparing recommendations for policies to be adopted by the Board and the implementation of the adopted policies.
7. Provide leadership for the attainment of student performance in the District based upon the state's academic excellence indicators and other indicators as may be adopted by the State Board or Local Board.
8. Prepare Board agendas and meeting materials in cooperation with the Board President.
9. Accurately prepare and submit in a timely manner any and all reports required by TEA, Federal and State agencies, the Board and courts of law.
10. Direct and supervise all financial accounting and ensure that funds are expended legally, in accordance with the approved budget, and controlled effectively.
11. Ensure District compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements.
12. Develop, evaluate and revise annually the District Improvement Plan, with the assistance of the District Improvement Team.

XIV. Media Inquiries to the Board

- A. On issues before the Board, the Board President and the Superintendent shall be the official spokespersons for the Board to the media.
- B. All Board members who receive calls from the media should refer them to the Superintendent or the Board President, as appropriate.

XV. Anonymous Phone Calls or Letters

The Board encourages input; however, anonymous calls or letters will not receive Board attention, discussion, or response and will not result in directives to the administration.

XVI. Response to Signed Letters

Only signed letters will be forwarded to the Superintendent, who will respond and send a copy to the full Board.

XVII. Annual Board Orientation and Reorientation

- A. These Board Operating Procedures will be reviewed and updated annually at the regular June Board meeting.
- B. District Policy BBF(LOCAL), Board Member Ethics, will also be reviewed annually at the Regular June Board meeting.
- C. The current Board Member Ethics are:

EQUITY IN ATTITUDE

- I will be fair, just, and impartial in all my decisions and actions.
- I will accord others the respect I wish for myself.
- I will encourage expressions of different opinions and listen with an open mind to others' ideas.

TRUSTWORTHINESS IN STEWARDSHIP

- I will be accountable to the public by representing District policies, programs, priorities, and progress accurately.
- I will be responsive to the community by seeking its involvement in District affairs and by communicating its priorities and concerns.
- I will work to ensure prudent and accountable use of District resources.
- I will make no personal promise or take private action that may compromise my performance or my responsibilities.

HONOR IN CONDUCT

- I will tell the truth.
- I will share my views while working for consensus.
- I will respect the majority decision as the decision of the Board.
- I will base my decisions on fact rather than supposition, opinion, or public favor.

INTEGRITY OF CHARACTER

- I will refuse to surrender judgment to any individual or group at the expense of the District as a whole.
- I will consistently uphold all applicable laws, rules, policies, and governance procedures.
- I will not disclose information that is confidential by law or that will needlessly harm the District if disclosed.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

- I will focus my attention on fulfilling the Board's responsibilities of goal setting, policymaking, and evaluation.
- I will diligently prepare for and attend Board meetings.
- I will avoid personal involvement in activities the Board has delegated to the Superintendent.
- I will seek continuing education that will enhance my ability to fulfill my duties effectively.

STUDENT-CENTERED FOCUS

- I will be continuously guided by what is best for all students of the District.