

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: April 11, 2023

NUMBER: 23-088

FR: Office of the Superintendent

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

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Improve Stakeholder Communication.

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

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

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when changes in law occur or when specific need occurs. 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 Bylaws, Board Members. This revision was brought forward by AASB and revisions require Board adoption. *Proposed changes are:* This bylaw has 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 to the proposed revisions to BB 9200, Board Bylaws, Board Members as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve first reading to 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 to the proposed revisions to BB 9200, Board Bylaws, 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. Individual Board members shall submit requests for research or administrative studies to the entire Board for consideration.

(cf. 6162.8 - Research)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

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.

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.

(cf. 1250 - Visits to the Schools)

Obligations of Members

Members of the 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 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 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.

The 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*

Adoption Date: May 23, 1995

Revised or Reviewed: (Date of Revision/Review)

Northwest Arctic Borough School District