

Board Member Authority and Responsibilities

0121.00

All business of the Board shall be transacted at legally constituted Board meetings. No member shall have the power to act in the name of the Board outside of a legal Board meeting, except when empowered through Board appointment to carry out a special task.

No Board member, by virtue of his/her office, shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or, as an individual, command the services of any school employee. Although responsibility for the operation of the schools is vested in the Board as a whole, not in its individual members, the capabilities of individual members will determine the effectiveness of the Board. Therefore, individual Board members are expected to:

1. Recognize that the basic function of the Board is “policy making” and not “administration” and accept responsibility for learning to discriminate intelligently between these two functions.
2. Become well-informed concerning Board member duties, education issues and the proper functions of public schools.
3. Attend all properly noticed Board meetings insofar as possible and be prepared to discuss and/or act on agenda items.
4. Make decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
5. Keep in mind the District’s educational philosophy and goals when making decisions on the Board.
6. Respect the opinion of others and conform to the principle of majority rule once a decision is made and promote the implementation of that decision.
7. Refrain from discrimination of any kind based on the basis of: age (40+), ancestry, arrest or conviction record, color, creed, handicap or disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or membership in any reserve component of the United States or state military forces. or any other legally protected classification.
8. Refrain from disclosing confidential information from executive sessions of the Board and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable laws.

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9. Recognize that only the Board President or other person(s) specifically designated by Board policy may speak for the Board.
10. Work harmoniously with each other without trying either to dominate the Board or neglect a share of the work.
11. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using their Board positions for personal or partisan gain.
12. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or Administration.
13. Remember that responsibilities for overall management and control of the property and affairs of the District, including the development of policies, belong to the Board while the responsibilities for the day-to-day operation of the schools belong to the Administration. The Board and the Administration must work together to continually identify the needs, goals and priorities of the District.
14. Refer citizen complaints through proper channels and abstain from individual counsel and action.

Legal References: WI Statutes: 19.42
19.59 (1) (c)
118.195
118.20
120.12
120.44
946.13

WI Fair Employment Law, chapters 111.31 to 111.395, Wis. Stats.
Title IX, 1972 Educational Amendments
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1967
Age Discrimination Act of 1975
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
Civil Rights Act of 1991
Pregnancy Discrimination Act

Cross References: 0142.04 Board Member Oath of Office
0242.03 Conflicts of Interest

Approved: May 11, 1987

0121.00 (b)

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