



Book	Policy Manual
Section	9000 BYLAWS OF THE BOARD
Title	Board Members 02-06-2023
Code	BB 9200
Status	Work Session
Cross References	BP 1260 - Visits to the Schools BP 6162.8 - Research BB 9250 - Compensation, Reimbursement, Other Benefits BB 9270 - Conflict of Interest BB 9320 - Meetings BB 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials E 9000c - Requests for Information from School Board Members
Last Revised	June 2, 2008
Last Reviewed	June 4, 2018

### Limits of Board Member Authority

The 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. Board members have authority only in regularly called meetings of the Board, or when delegated specific tasks by Board action.

The Board is the unit of authority. A 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~~ will 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.

A Board member must resign from the Board before formally applying for District employment.

Board member participation as an officer in organizations supporting student activity should ~~shall~~ ~~will~~ have approval of the Board.

School visits by Board members are encouraged. Principals should receive a courtesy call in advance of a visit. Board members, as with all visitors, must check in with the school office. Board members who visit schools of their own volition have no more authority than any other citizen.

~~Individual Board members shall submit requests for research or administrative studies to the entire Board for consideration.~~

### Board Member Requests for Information

Board members should make informed decisions on matters before them for a vote. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for providing the Board with relevant materials to inform the Board on those matters on which it is to act. If Board members desire further information, a request for information will be directed to the Superintendent, pursuant to the following guidelines:

1. **Requests for simple facts.** Any Board member may make a request for simple facts to the Superintendent who will forward the request to the appropriate staff member. All responses to requests for simple facts will be provided to the requesting Board member, and copied to the Board President.
2. **Requests for reports,** research, administrative studies, detailed information, or for information relating to a problem or a potential problem in the District. Some information requests require significant administrative time and explanation to provide the requested response. Individual Board members will submit such requests to the full Board for consideration. Upon concurrence of the ~~other-board members,~~ the request will ~~then~~ be forwarded to the Superintendent for response.
3. **Complaints regarding personnel.** Board members may have individual concerns ~~their own complaints~~ regarding District personnel or may hear such complaints from the community. These concerns should be privately communicated to the Superintendent.

~~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.~~

### 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 will not abstain.

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 topics surrounding ~~the problems of~~ public education in the district, the state, and the nation in order to interpret them to the people of the district.

~~A Board member must resign from the Board before formally applying for District employment.~~

~~Board member participation as an officer in organizations supporting student activity shall will have approval of the Board.~~

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

14.14.140 Restrictions on employment