

Limits Of Board Member Authority

The Governing Board recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the district and that a Board member has no individual authority. Board members shall hold the education of students above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

(cf. 1160 Political Process)

(cf. 9000 - Role of Board and Members)

(cf. 9005 Governance Standards)

(cf. 9270 Conflict of Interest)

(cf. 9323 Meeting Conduct)

Individually, the Board member may not commit the district to any policy, act or expenditure.

(cf. 9005 Governance Standards)

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee. Individual Board members shall submit requests for information to the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 Personnel Files)

(cf. 9005 Governance Standards)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 9322 Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Individual Board members do not have the authority to resolve complaints. Any Board member approached directly by a person with a complaint should refer the complaint to the Superintendent or designee so that the problem may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process.

(cf. 1312.1 Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.2 Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 1312.4 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 3320 Claims and Actions Against the District)

(cf. 4031 Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

(cf. 6159.1 Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

A Board member whose child is attending a district school should be aware of his/her role as a Board member when interacting with district employees about his/her child. Because his/her position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of school personnel, a Board member shall inform the Superintendent or designee before volunteering at his/her child's classroom.

(cf. 1240 Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 5020 Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

(cf. 6020 Parent Involvement)

Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent or designee for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the states open meeting laws (Brown Act) to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board but has not yet assumed office.

Board members and persons elected to the Board who have not yet assumed office are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.1)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

7054 Use of district property

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35100-35351 Governing boards, especially:

35160-35184 Powers and duties

35291 Rules

35292 Visits to schools (Board members)

51101 Rights of parents/guardians

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54962 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body of a local agency

54952.7 Copies of chapter to members of legislative body

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Bylaw FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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