

Bylaws of the Board

Members

Limits of Board Members Authority

The Governing 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.

The Board is the unit of authority. Apart from the normal function as part of the unit, the Board member has no individual authority. Individually, the Board member may not commit the district to any policy, act or expenditure. The Board member cannot do business with the district served, nor should the Board member have an interest in any contract with the school district in general. The Board member does not represent any factional segment of the community, but is rather a part of the body which represents and acts for the community as a whole.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Legal Reference: (See next page)

Members (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
- 35100-35351 Governing boards - esp.
- 35160-35182 Powers and duties
- 35230-35240 Corrupt practices
- 35291 Rules
- 35292 Visits to schools (board members)

Bylaw  
adopted: October 1990

NORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Bakersfield, California