

## **Individual Board Member's Authority and Responsibilities**

The Board member as an individual has no official powers, since only the action of the Board as a whole is recognized by law. No member of the Board has the authority to act in the name of the Board unless so authorized by specific motion of the Board. A Board member must clearly identify the opinions as his or her own. Each Board member represents, open-mindedly, the entire school district and, in consequence, lets his/her considerations for the entire Board/district take precedence over every form of partisanship and special interests.

Members have a responsibility to keep informed by reading appropriate materials provided by the superintendent. They are further encouraged to participate in professional school board activities. Members of the Board will adhere to the following procedures:

1. Requests for Information

Any individual member of the Board who desires a written report or a survey prepared by any staff member will make such a request to the superintendent. A copy of such material will be sent to each member of the Board. Any request for a report or information that requires substantial time or expense to the district must be submitted by the superintendent to the Board for consideration and action.

2. Requests for Legal Opinions from the Attorney for the District

Any member of the Board may request a legal opinion on a district matter. Such request should be made to the superintendent or to the chairperson of the Board.

3. Action on Complaints or Requests made to Board Members

An individual or group may confront a Board member with an issue or a problem concerning personnel and/or district policies. Many times a Board member can supply an answer to the question. However, in handling controversial matter or a matter for which a Board member has no answer, the Board member should refer the matter to the superintendent.

4. Relationship to Administration

Individual Board members will become informed about the educational program of the district, may visit schools or other facilities to gain information required to become so informed and may request information from the superintendent but will not intervene in the administration of the district or its schools.

## 5. Contracts

Contracts made by individual Board members without authority of the Board are not valid. All liabilities associated with such attempts to establish a contractual arrangement will be the responsibility of the individual Board member.

END OF POLICY

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### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 332.045](#)

[ORS 332.055](#)

[ORS 332.057](#)

[ORS 332.075](#)

38 Op Atty Gen 1995 (1978).

South Benton Education Association v. Monroe UH School District 1, 83 Or App 425 (1987).