

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

An individual Board member exercises the authority and responsibility of his/her position only when the Board is in legal session.

A Board member has the authority to act in the name of the Board when authorized by a specific Board motion. A Board member has the right to express personal opinions. When expressing such opinions in public, the Board member must clearly identify the opinions as his/her own.

Board members will be knowledgeable of information requested through Board action, supplied by the superintendent and gained through professional board activities.

Board members will adhere to the following in carrying out the responsibilities of membership:

1. Request for Information

Any individual Board member who desires a copy of a written report or survey prepared by the administrative staff will make such a request to the superintendent. A copy of the material may be available to each Board member. Requests for the generation of reports or information which require additional expense to the district must be submitted to the Board for consideration.

2. Requests for Legal Opinions

Any Board member may request a legal opinion. Such request, however, shall be made through the Board chair to the superintendent. If the legal opinion sought involves the superintendent's employment or performance, the request should be made to the Board chair. Legal counsel is responsible to the Board.

3. Action on Complaints or Requests Made to the Board

When Board members receive complaints or requests for action from staff, students or members of the public, the Board members will direct the staff, students, members of the public to the appropriate complaint policy (Board policy KL – Public Complaints). Such information is to be conveyed to the superintendent for action.

4. Board Member's Relationship to Administration

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

5. Contracts or Agreements Made By Individual Board Members

Contracts or agreements made by an individual Board member requires approval by a majority of the Board.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 332.045](#)

[ORS 332.055](#)

[ORS 332.057](#)

[ORS 332.075](#)

38 OR. ATTY. GEN. OP. 1995 (1978)

S. Benton Educ. Ass'n v. Monroe Union High Sch. Dist., 83 Or. App. 425 (1987).

**Cross Reference(s):**

BHD - Board Member Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

DFEA - Admission to District Events