

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

The individual members of the Board will be known as Board Directors. An individual Board director exercises the authority and responsibility of his/her position when the Board is in legal session only.

A Board director has the authority to act in the name of the Board when authorized by a specific Board motion. When authorized to act as the district's designated representative in collective bargaining, a Board director may make and accept proposals in bargaining without subsequent approval by the Board. A Board director has the right to express personal opinions. When expressing such opinions in public, the Board director must clearly identify the opinions as his/her own. Directors will be knowledgeable of information requested through Board action, supplied by the superintendent and gained through professional Board activities. Directors of the Board 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 an existing written report or survey prepared by the administrative staff will make such a request to the superintendent. A copy of the material may be made available to each member of the Board. 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 make a request for a legal opinion. Such request, however, shall be made in writing through the Board chair to the superintendent to contact an attorney. Legal advice received from this process will be shared with the entire Board. If the legal opinion sought involves the superintendent's employment or performance, the request should be made to the Board chairman. Legal counsel is responsible to the Board.

### **3. Action on Complaints or Requests Made to Board Directors**

When Board directors receive complaints or requests for action from staff, students or members of the public, such information is to be conveyed to the superintendent for action.

### **4. Board Member's Relationship to Administration**

Individual Board directors 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 directors will not intervene in the administration of the district or its schools.

## **5. Contracts or Agreements Made By Individual Board Directors**

Contracts or agreements made by individual Board directors without the Board's authority are invalid.

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 - Free Admissions