

Lake Oswego School District 7J

Code: **BBAA**
Adopted: 11/16/98
Readopted: 6/08/09; 10/06/14
Orig. Code(s): 1112

Individual Board Member's Authority and Responsibilities

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

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.

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

Members of the Board shall adhere to the following procedures in carrying out the responsibilities of board membership:

1. Requests for Information

Any individual member of the Board who desires a written report or a survey prepared by the administrative staff shall make such a request to the Board chair and superintendent and a copy of the report shall be sent to each member of the Board. Requests for reports or information which could be obtained only at substantial expense to the district or significantly time consuming must be submitted to the Board for consideration.

2. Requests for Legal Opinions

A request for a legal opinion may be made by a member of the Board to the superintendent. The whole Board shall consider such requests. If the Board agrees to direct the superintendent to obtain the legal opinion requested, copies of the opinion shall be distributed to all Board members.

3. Action on Complaints or Requests Made to Board Members

When a Board member receives a complaint or request from staff, students, or members of the public that requires a district response, he or she shall contact the superintendent with information about the complaints or requests.

4. Board Member's Relationship to Administration

Individual Board members shall become informed about the educational program of the district, and may request information from the superintendent, but shall 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 individual Board members without the Board's authority are invalid.

END OF POLICY

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).