

Individual Board Member's Authority and Responsibilities

The duties and obligations of the individual Board member include the following:

1. To become familiar with the state school laws, administrative rules of the State Board of Education district policies, rules and regulations;
2. To have a general knowledge of educational aims and objectives of the district;
3. To work harmoniously with other Board members without trying either to dominate the Board or to neglect his/her share of the work;
4. To vote and act in the Board meetings impartially for the good of the district without subordinating the education of students to partisan interests;
5. To have the courage of his/her convictions and vote his/her beliefs, accepting the will of the majority vote in all cases as the policy of the entire Board, giving wholehearted support to such policy until such time as the policy may be changed by majority actions;
6. To attend all meetings, discuss items presented on the agenda, suggest other items for consideration and vote upon motions and resolutions presented;
7. To represent the Board and the district to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support;
8. To refer complaints to the proper school authorities and to refrain from individual counsel and action.

Members of the Board shall have authority only when acting as a Board legally in session. Members have no authority over district affairs as individuals. They have complete authority, within the school law and district policy, over school affairs when they serve as a legal body.

The Board shall not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of an individual member, except when such statement or action is in pursuance of specific instruction of the Board.

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).