

Individual Board Member's Authority and Responsibilities

An individual Board member exercises the authority and responsibility of his or 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 or 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 will adhere to the following procedures in carrying out the responsibilities of membership:

1. Request for Information

Any individual Board member who desires 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 member of the Board. Requests for 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, should 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 Board Members

When Board members receive complaints or requests 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 members will be informed about the district's educational program, may visit schools or other facilities to gain information and may request information from any staff member. Board members will not intervene in the administration of the district or its schools.

5. Contracts Made By Individual Board Members

Contracts made by individual Board members without the Board's authority are invalid.

The duties and obligations of an individual Board member may be enumerated as follows:

1. Become familiar with the school laws of the State of Oregon .
2. Become familiar with the regulations of the state Department of Education and North Santiam School District policies, rules and regulations.
3. To have a general knowledge of educational aims and objectives of the district.
4. To vote and act in Board meetings, impartially, and for the good of the district.
5. To work harmoniously with other Board members without trying to dominate the Board or neglect his;/her share of the work.
6. To accept the will of the majority vote in all cases and give support to the resulting policy.
7. To represent the Board and North Santiam School District to the public in such a way to promote both interest and support.
8. To refer complaints to the proper school authorities and to abstain from individual counsel and action.
9. To attend District extra-curricular or educational activities in an effort to be informed about district operations and ASB involvement.

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).