

Board Member Training

Board Development

The complexity of Board membership demands opportunities for development, study and training for Board members. The Board places a high priority on the importance of a planned and continuing program of in-service education for its members.

To develop leadership capabilities, become informed about current issues in education and improve their skills as members of a policy-making body, Board members will participate in opportunities for development that may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. In-service activities planned by the Board and by the administration for staff members, as appropriate;
2. Participation in conferences, workshops and conventions held by state and national school boards associations and other educational organizations; and
3. Subscriptions to publications addressing Board member concerns.

Conference/Convention Workshop Attendance

Recognizing the need for continuing training and development of its members, the Board encourages the participation of all members in appropriate conferences, conventions and workshops. To control both the investment of time and funds necessary to implement this policy, the Board establishes these principles and procedures for its guidance:

1. The superintendent will inform Board members, in a timely manner, of upcoming conferences, conventions and workshops. The Board will decide which meetings appear to be most likely to produce the greatest benefit to the Board and the district;
2. Funds for participation at such meetings will be budgeted. When funds are limited, the Board will designate which members would be most appropriate to participate at a given meeting;
3. If authorized to attend, and reimbursement is approved by the entire Board, Board members will be reimbursed, upon request, for reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred; and
4. When a conference, convention or workshop is not attended by the full Board, those who do participate will be requested to share information, recommendations and materials acquired at the meeting by means of written or oral reports.

New Board Member Orientation

A new member is to be afforded the Board's and staff's fullest measure of courtesy and cooperation. Board and staff will make every effort to assist the new member to become fully informed about the Board's functions, policies, procedures and priorities. In the interim between appointment and actually assuming office, the new Board member(s) will be assisted in the following ways:

1. The electee will be given materials on the role of a member of the school Board;
2. The electee will be invited to attend Board meetings, other than executive sessions, to observe the operation of the Board but will not be a voting member;
3. The electee will be given a copy of Board policies;
4. The superintendent will supply material pertinent to meetings and will explain its content;
5. The incoming member will be invited to meet with the superintendent and other administrative personnel, by arrangement with the superintendent, to discuss services they perform for the district;
6. The electee will be encouraged to attend board development and leadership training opportunities sponsored by professional organizations; and
7. New Board members will receive all reports and communications normally sent to Board members.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)