

Individual Board Members Authority and Responsibilities

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

No member of the Board has the authority to act in the name of the Board unless so authorized by specific motion of the Board. The affirmative vote of the majority of members of the Board is required to transact any business. When authorized to act as the district's designated representative in collective bargaining, a Board member may make and accept proposals in bargaining subject to subsequent approval by the Board.

When expressing personal opinions in public, the Board member should clearly identify the opinions as his or her own.

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

Members of the Board will adhere to the following in carrying out the responsibilities of Board membership:

1. Request for Information

Any individual member of the Board who desires a copy of an existing written report or a 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

Requests for legal advice or opinions by a Board member that will incur a cost for the district must be approved by a majority vote of the Board before the request is made to legal counsel. The Board chair is authorized to obtain legal advice or opinions if advantageous to do so prior to the next meeting (e.g., advice regarding an executive session or a decision to invite district legal counsel) without a need for Board approval. Legal counsel is responsible to the Board.

3. Action on Complaints or Requests Made to Board Members

When Board members receive complaints or requests for action from staff, students, or members of the public, the Board member will direct the staff, student, or member of the public to the appropriate complaint policy (KL-Public Complaints). Such information is to be conveyed to the superintendent for action.

4. Board Member's Relationship to Administration

In order for individual Board members to become informed about the educational program of the district, they may visit schools or other facilities to gain information. Board members may request information from the superintendent, but will not intervene in the administration

of the district or its schools.

5. Contracts or Agreements

All contracts of the district must be approved by the Board, unless otherwise delegated by the Board to the superintendent or designee for approval, before an order can be drawn for payment. If a contract is made without authority of the Board, the individual making such contract shall be personally liable.

END OF POLICY

Legal References:

ORS 332.055
ORS 332.045
ORS 332.057
ORS 332.075

38 Op Atty Gen 1995 (1978)

South Benton Education Association v. Monroe UH School District 1, 83 Or App 425 (1987).