

BYLAWS

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Identification

0110 IDENTIFICATION

Name

The official name of the Board of Education shall be “The Board of Education of Trenton in the County of Mercer.”

Purpose

The Board of Education exists for the purpose of providing a thorough and efficient system of free public education in grades Pre-Kindergarten through twelve in the Trenton School District.

Composition

The Trenton School District is comprised of all the area within the municipal boundaries of the City of Trenton.

Classification

The school district shall be classified as a Type I district.

Address

The address of the Board of Education shall be:

108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609

N.J.S.A. 18A:8-1; 18A:9-2; 18A:9-3; 18A:10-2

Adopted:



0120 AUTHORITY AND POWERS

Authority

The Board of Education is constituted, authorized, and governed by the statutes of the State of New Jersey, Title 18A, Education.

Powers

The Board shall make, amend, and repeal rules not inconsistent with statutes or with the rules of the State Board of Education for its own government and the transaction of its business and for the government and management of the public schools and the public property of the school district and for the employment, regulation of, conduct, and discharge of its employees. The Board shall perform all acts and do all things, consistent with law and the rules of the State Board, necessary for the proper conduct, equipment and maintenance of the public schools of the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-1; 18A:11-1; 18A:16-1; 18A:20-1; 18A:27-4

Adopted:



0131 BYLAWS AND POLICIES

The Board of Education shall exercise its rule-making power by adopting bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of the school district.

Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal

Bylaws and policies may be adopted, amended, and repealed at any meeting of the Board, provided the proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal has been proposed and approved at a previous meeting of the Board.

The Board may, under emergency circumstances, suspend the operation of a bylaw or policy and adopt, amend, or repeal a bylaw or policy without prior notice. The emergency adoption, amendment, or repeal of a bylaw or policy shall terminate at the next meeting of the Board or at such earlier date as may be specified by the Board unless further acted upon by the Board.

The adoption, amendment, repeal, or suspension of a bylaw or policy shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board. Any policy or part of a policy that is superseded by a term in a negotiated agreement or by a subsequently adopted policy shall no longer be in force and effect as a policy.

Promulgation and Distribution

A manual of bylaws and policies shall be maintained. A copy of the manual of bylaws and policies shall be given to each Board member, the Superintendent, the Board Secretary, the Board Attorney, each Building Principal, and other individuals designated by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall institute a plan for the orderly promulgation of policies to staff members who are affected by them and shall provide staff members with access to an up-to-date manual of Board bylaws and policies.

Each copy of the manual of bylaws and policies shall be numbered; a record of the placement of each manual shall be maintained by the Superintendent. Copies of revised pages will be furnished to the holders of manuals as changes are made to bylaws and policies. The holder of a policy manual shall return the manual to the Board Secretary upon the termination of his/her service to the district.

The manual of bylaws and policies shall be considered a public record open to inspection in the office of the Superintendent. The manual retained by the Superintendent's office shall be considered the master copy of the policy manual and shall not be modified by any person other than the Superintendent or his/her designee.



Development of Bylaws and Policies

Bylaws and policies will be developed and considered by the Board in accordance with the following procedure:

1. A new or revised bylaw or policy may be suggested to the Board by any Board member, the Superintendent, any staff member, or a member of the public;
2. A suggestion for a new or revised bylaw or policy may be referred, at the discretion of the President and as appropriate to the subject, to the Superintendent, a Board committee, or a public advisory committee for study and formulation of a recommendation to the Board. Any study of a policy suggestion should consider whether the matter is adequately addressed in existing Board policy and whether the matter is more appropriately addressed by administrative regulation;
3. If a recommendation for a new or revised bylaw or policy results from referral for study, a proposed draft will be submitted to the Board for discussion and approval on first reading. Copies of the proposed draft will be made available to staff members and the public, and comment will be invited. Changes in the draft may be made, by a simple majority vote, when the draft is presented for approval on first reading;
4. The proposed draft, approved on first reading, will be submitted for adoption at the next regular meeting of the Board. Changes in the draft may be made by a simple majority vote. A change that alters the substantive meaning of the draft will constitute a new first reading, and the draft must be presented for adoption at the next succeeding Board meeting. A change that is merely editorial may be followed by a vote to adopt the new or revised bylaw or policy on second reading.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted:



0132 EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

The Board of Education shall exercise its executive power in part by the appointment of a Superintendent as Chief School Administrator, who shall enforce the statutes of the State of New Jersey, rules of the State Board of Education, and policies of this Board.

The Superintendent shall prepare regulations for the administration of the school district that are not inconsistent with statutes or rules of the State Board of Education and are dictated by the policies of this Board. Administrative regulations shall be binding on the employees of this district and the pupils in the schools of this district when issued and shall be provided to the Board for the information of Board members except where Board approval is required by law.

The Superintendent shall be delegated the authority to take necessary action in circumstances not governed by Board policy and shall report any such action to the Board at the first Board meeting following the action.

The Superintendent shall have a seat on the Board and shall have the right to speak on all matters at meetings of the Board, but shall have no vote.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20

Adopted:



0133 ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES

The Board of Education may assume jurisdiction over any dispute or controversy arising within this school district and concerning any matter over which authority has been vested in the Board by statute, rule of the State Board of Education, or a contract or policy of this Board.

The Board may hold hearings that will offer the parties to a dispute, on notice duly given, a fair and impartial forum for the resolution of the matter.

Beyond the basic requirements of due process a hearing will vary in form and content as dictated by the severity of the consequences that may flow from the Board's determination, the degree of difficulty of establishing findings of fact from conflicting evidence, and the impact of the Board's decision on the school district.

Regulations for the conduct of adjudicatory hearings of the Board shall be prepared as guidelines for those who may be heard by the Board.

A decision of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted:



0134 BOARD SELF EVALUATION

The Board of Education is committed to the belief that every part of the school system in this district should be accountable to the public and that performance evaluation is essential to that accountability. The Board further believes that the improvement and growth of any institution depends upon an honest appraisal of its strengths and weaknesses. The Board accepts, therefore, responsibility for the conduct of a systematic program of self-evaluation and appraisal. The standards against which the Board will evaluate itself will be the educational goals, bylaws, and policies duly adopted by this Board.

The Board will annually adopt an evaluation instrument that permits individual Board members to record their assessments of the conduct of Board meetings, the fiscal management of the district, the conduct of the instructional program, and the relationship of the Board with the Superintendent, other district staff members, and the community.

The assessments of Board members will be tabulated and presented for discussion at a regular meeting of the Board in which the Superintendent will be invited to participate. The Board will formulate, as appropriate, goals and priorities that will serve to guide the Board in the ensuing school year.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted:



0142 BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, PROHIBITED
ACTS AND CODE OF ETHICS

Each member of the Board of Education shall possess the qualifications required by law and shall be bound by the provisions of the School Ethics Act.

Qualification of Office

A Board member must be a citizen of the United States.

A Board member must be a resident of the district the member represents and must have been such for at least one year immediately preceding the member's election or appointment.

A Board member may not be convicted of a felony.

A Board member must be able to read and write.

A Board member must be registered to vote in the district and not disqualified from voting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.

A Board member cannot concurrently hold office as mayor or a member of the governing body of the City of Trenton.

Prohibited Acts

“Business” means any corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, trust, sole proprietorship, union, political organization, or other legal entity but does not include a school district or other public entity.

“Interest” means the ownership of or control of more than ten percent of the profits, assets, or stocks of a business but does not include the control of assets in a labor union.

“Immediate family” means the person to whom the Board member is legally married and any dependent child of the Board member residing in the same household.

No Board member or member of his/her immediate family shall have an interest in a business organization or engage in any business, transaction, or professional activity that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest.



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Board Member Qualifications, Prohibited
Acts and Code of Ethics

No Board member shall use or attempt to use his/her official position to secure unwarranted privileges, advantages, or employment for him/herself, members of his/her immediate family, or others.

No Board member shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter where he/she, a member of his/her immediate family, or a business organization in which he/she has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial or personal involvement that might reasonably be expected to impair his/her independence of judgment in the exercise of official duties. No Board member shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter where he/she or a member of his/her immediate family has a personal involvement that is or creates some benefit to the Board member or a member of his/her immediate family.

No Board member shall undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to prejudice his/her independence of judgment in the exercise of official duties.

No Board member or member of his/her immediate family or business organization in which he/she has an interest shall solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise of future employment, or other thing of value based upon an understanding that the gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him/her, directly or indirectly, in the discharge of his/her official duties, except that the member may have solicited or accepted contributions to his/her campaign for election to public office if he/she had no knowledge or reason to believe that the campaign contribution, if accepted, was given with the intent to influence him/her in the discharge of official duties. Board members may not accept offers of meals, entertainment or hospitality which are limited to clients/customers of the individual providing such hospitality. Board members may attend hospitality suites or receptions at conferences only when they are open to all persons attending the conference.

No Board member shall use, or allow to be used, his public office or any information not generally available to the members of the public which he/she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his/her office, for the purpose of securing financial gain for him/herself, any member of his/her immediate family, or any business organization with which he/she is associated.

No Board member or business organization in which he/she has an interest shall represent any person or party other than the Board of Education or this school district in connection with any cause, proceeding, application, or other matter pending before this school district or in any proceeding involving this school district, except that this provision shall not be deemed to prohibit representation within the context of official labor union or similar representational responsibilities.



It is not a conflict of interest if, merely by reason of his/her participation in any matter voted upon by the Board, a Board member accrues material or monetary gain that is no greater than the gain that could reasonably be expected to accrue to any other member of the member's business, profession, occupation, or group.

No elected Board member shall be prohibited from making an inquiry for information on behalf of a constituent, if no fee, reward, or other thing of value is promised to or given to or accepted by the member or a member of his/her immediate family, whether directly or indirectly, in return for the information so requested.

Nothing shall prohibit a Board member or members of his/her immediate family from representing him/herself or themselves in negotiations or proceedings concerning his/her or their own interests, except that Board members shall disqualify themselves from participating in negotiations and voting on collective bargaining agreements where their spouse or dependent children are members of the bargaining unit.

Each Board member shall annually, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-25 and 18A:12-26, file a disclosure statement regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Ineligibility for District Employment

A Board member cannot be appointed to a paid office or position required to be filled by the Board, except where law permits or requires that the office or position be filled by a Board member, and is ineligible for appointment to a paid office or position in the district for at least six months after the member's retirement, resignation, or removal from Board membership.

Code of Ethics

In accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:12-24.1 every Board member will abide by the following Code of Ethics. The Board member will:

1. Uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. Make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.



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3. Confine his/her Board action to policy making, planning and appraisal, and help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
4. Carry out his/her responsibility not to administer the schools, but together with fellow Board members, insure they are well run.
5. Recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.
6. Refuse to surrender his/her independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
7. Hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools, which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, or the schools. In all other matters, he/she will provide accurate information and, in concert with fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
8. Vote to appoint the best-qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. Support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
10. Refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Each Board member is required to sign an acknowledgment that he/she received a copy, read and will become familiar with the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. The Board Secretary will provide each Board member with a copy of the Code of Ethics and the required acknowledgement on an annual basis and will maintain the original signed acknowledgment(s) in the Board office.

The Board will receive a copy of and discuss the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12-21 et seq., at a regular scheduled public meeting each year. The discussion may include presentations by school administrative staff, the Board attorney, Board members and/or other professionals familiar with the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics. In addition, the Board Attorney, Superintendent, and/or School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will keep the Board informed of decisions by the School Ethics Commission, Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education and courts.



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Oath of Office

Each Board member shall, before entering upon the duties of the office, swear or affirm under oath that he/she qualifies for membership and will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Board member.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1; 18A:12-1.1; 18A:12-2;
18A:12-2.1; 18A:12-21 through 18A:12-34
N.J.S.A. 41:1-3
School Ethics Commission Policy Guideline 1.

Adopted:



0142.1 NEPOTISM

The Board of Education adopts this Nepotism Policy as a condition of receiving State aid pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2.

For the purposes of this Policy, “relative” means an individual's spouse, by marriage or civil union pursuant to N.J.S.A. 37:1-33, domestic partner as defined in N.J.S.A. 26:8A-3, or the individual's or spouse's parent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother or half-sister, whether the relative is related to the individual or the individual's spouse by blood, marriage or adoption.

For the purposes of this Policy, “immediate family member” means the person’s spouse, partner in a civil union as defined in N.J.S.A. 37:1-33, domestic partner as defined in N.J.S.A. 26:8A-3, or dependent child residing in the same household.

For the purposes of this Policy, “administrator” is defined as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-23.

No relative of a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools shall be employed in an office or position in this school district except that a person employed by the school district on the effective date of the Policy or the date a relative becomes a Board member or Superintendent shall not be prohibited from continuing to be employed or promoted in the district.

The Superintendent of Schools shall not recommend to the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1 any relative of a Board member or the Superintendent. **[Optional** – However, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2(a)2, the district may employ a relative of a Board member or Superintendent of Schools provided the district obtains the approval from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools. Such approval shall be granted only upon demonstration by the school district that it conducted a thorough search for candidates and that the proposed candidate is the only qualified and available person for the position.]

[Optional – In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2(a)6.(b), per diem substitutes and student employees who are relatives of a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools shall be excluded from the provisions of this Policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2.]

A school district administrator shall be prohibited from exercising direct or indirect authority, supervision, or control over a relative of the administrator. Where it is not feasible to eliminate such a direct or indirect supervisory relationship, appropriate screens and/or alternative supervision and reporting mechanisms must be put in place.



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Nepotism

A school district administrator or Board member who has a relative who is a member of the bargaining unit shall be prohibited from discussing or voting on the proposed collective bargaining agreement with that unit or from participating in any way in negotiations, including, but not limited to, being a member of the negotiating team; nor should that school district administrator be present with the Board in closed session when negotiation strategies are being discussed; provided however, that the administrator may serve as a technical resource to the negotiating team and may provide technical information necessary to the collective bargaining process when no one else in the district can provide such information.

A school district administrator or Board member who has an immediate family member who is a member of the same Statewide union in another school district shall be prohibited from participating in any way in negotiations, including but not limited to, being a member of the negotiating team or being present with the Board of Education in closed sessions when negotiation strategies are being discussed, prior to the Board of Education attaining a Tentative Memorandum of Agreement with the bargaining unit that includes a salary guide and total compensation package. Once the Tentative Memorandum of Agreement is established, a school district administrator with an immediate family member who is a member of the same State-wide union in another school district may fully participate in the process, absent other conflicts. Notwithstanding these provisions, a district administrator who has an immediate family member who is a member of the same Statewide union in another district may serve as a technical resource to the negotiating team and may provide technical information necessary to the collective bargaining process when no one else in the district can provide the information.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2

Adopted:



0143.1 BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

The appointment of Board of Education members shall be made in strict compliance with law by the Mayor.

A vacancy on the Board of Education:

1. Shall be promptly reported by the Board Secretary to the Mayor;
2. The Mayor shall within thirty days appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-7; 18A:12-8

Adopted:



0143.2 PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Trenton Board of Education invites representatives and alternates from district high schools to attend all open regular, special, and conference sessions of the Board and contribute to discussions as non-voting representatives. It is the desire of the Board to provide pupil representatives with a unique experience in a functioning democracy; foster a sense of responsibility to the system; help pupils understand the process of decision making in the public realm; and provide a direct liaison between the Board of Education and the entire student body.

The Superintendent and the Board shall develop procedures for selecting pupil representatives and alternates to the Board of Education.

The pupil representative shall not participate in Executive Sessions of the Board.

The pupil representatives and alternates will be notified in advance of each open regular, special, and conference session; will receive the agenda, with exception of Executive Session material, and necessary back-up materials; and shall serve as a resource to the Board.

The term of new pupil representatives begins at the organizational meeting and concludes at the organizational meeting of the following year.

The Superintendent shall ensure that pupil representatives are not subject to harassment, intimidation, or retaliation in response to any action taken by the Board or in response to statements made by said pupils in matters coming before the Board.

The pupil representatives and alternates will be provided an orientation regarding Board business and procedures along with the newly appointed Board members in accordance with Board policy.

Adopted:



0144 BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

Sufficient funds shall be allocated to reimburse new Board members for attending New Jersey School Board Association (NJSBA) training within the first six months after taking office, and an NJSBA new Board member orientation within the first year of taking office.

Administrative code defines “newly elected or appointed Board member” as any Board member who has never served as a member of either an elected or appointed school Board.

In-Service Development

The Board President will provide new Board members with an orientation and materials pertinent to policy governance as conducted with Trenton Board of Education.

State, regional, and national workshops, conventions, conferences, and seminars developed by associations such as the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, etc., provide unique opportunities for Board members to broaden their understanding of their responsibilities, learn new tools and techniques for coping with them, and keep up-to-date on educational trends. Therefore, the Board recommends that, in addition to sending the mandated delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association’s Delegate Assemblies, the Board shall send representatives to such educational conferences, workshops, conventions, and seminars as it decides each year.

The same regulations regarding travel arrangements and reimbursement developed for other district paid attendance at such events shall apply.

The Superintendent shall prepare a checklist for district representatives to such events, to aid them in preparing meaningful reports for the Board and the district as a whole. The report shall be presented at a regular meeting of the Board within a month of the delegation’s return. Board members shall present reports within one month of their attendance at any activity as set forth above.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33

Adopted:



0145 BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL

The membership of a Board of Education member shall terminate immediately upon:

1. The cessation of the member's bona fide residency in the school district the member represents; or
2. The member's election or appointment to the office of mayor or member of the governing body of the City of Trenton; or
3. The member's disqualification from voting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1; or
4. The member's conviction for false swearing for having falsely affirmed or declared that he/she is qualified to vote;
5. The removal of the member by the Commissioner of Education; or
6. Recall of a Board member pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.

A member who fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board without good cause may be removed from office on the affirmative votes of a majority of the remaining Board members, provided that:

1. The member's removal was proposed at the immediately previous Board meeting; and
2. Notice of the proposed removal was given to the affected member at least two days in advance of the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2; 18A:12-3; 18A:12-29
N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.

Adopted:



0146 BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

A Board member does not possess individually the authority and powers that reside in the Board of Education. No Board member by virtue of his/her office shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the operation of the school district or as an individual command the services of any school district employee.

Release of Information

Board member access to public, personnel, and pupil records shall be governed by law and by the provisions of Policy Nos. 8310, 8320, and 8330.

Confidential information to which a Board member becomes privy as a result of his/her office shall be used only for the purpose of helping the member discharge his/her responsibilities as Board member. No Board member shall reveal information contained in a confidential record or received during a duly convened private session of the Board except when that information has been released to the public by the Board.

Public Expressions

Board members are entitled to express themselves publicly on any matter, including issues involving the Board and the school district. Individual Board members cannot, however, express the position of the Board except as expressly authorized, in accordance with Board Policy No. 9120. A Board member shall not represent his/her personal opinion as the position of the Board and shall include in all formal expressions in which his/her Board affiliation is likely to be recognized, such as letters to government officials or newspapers, speeches to organizations, and the like, a statement that the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted:



0148 BOARD MEMBER INDEMNIFICATION

The Board of Education will indemnify Board members in accordance with law whenever a civil, administrative, criminal or quasi-criminal action or other legal proceeding is brought against a Board member for any act or omission arising out of and in the course of the performance of his/her duties as Board member. In the case of a criminal or quasi-criminal action which results in a final disposition in favor of the Board member, the Board will defray all costs of defending the action, including reasonable counsel fees and expenses, together with costs of appeal, and will save harmless and protect the Board member from any financial loss resulting from the action. Indemnification for exemplary or punitive damages is not required and will be governed by the standards and procedures set forth in N.J.S.A. 59:10-4.

The Board may arrange for and maintain appropriate insurance to cover all such damages, losses and expenses.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11.1; 18A:12-20; 18A:16-6;
18A:16-6.1; 18A:18A-46; 18A:18A-47

Adopted:



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Organization Meeting

0151 ORGANIZATION MEETING

The Board of Education shall organize annually at a regular meeting held for that purpose on May 16 or, if May 16 is on a Sunday, on May 17.

The meeting shall be called to order by the Board Secretary who shall serve as presiding officer pro tempore until the election of a President and Vice President.

The Mayor of the City of Trenton or an appropriate administrator shall administer the Oath of Office to new members.

The Board of Education shall organize by electing one of its members as President and another as Vice President.

Election for each office will be conducted by roll call vote when the nominations for that office are closed. The candidate receiving the votes of a majority of Board members present and voting will be elected to office. In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a second election shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Officers shall serve for one year and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

An officer who refuses to perform a duty imposed upon him/her by law may be removed by a majority vote of the full Board.

The Board shall fill a vacancy in either office within thirty days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

The President shall serve a maximum of two consecutive years.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-3; 18A:10-5

N.J.S.A. 41:1-1; 41:1-3

Adopted:



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Board Officers

0152 BOARD OFFICERS

The Board of Education shall organize by electing one of its members as President and another as Vice President.

Any member may place a member's name in nomination; a second is not required. Election for each office will be conducted by roll call vote when the nominations for that office are closed. The candidate receiving the votes of a majority of Board members will be elected to office. In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a second election shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Voting shall take place by verbal roll call.

Officers shall serve for one year and until their respective successors are elected and shall qualify, but if the Board shall fail to hold the organization meeting or to elect Board officers as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1, the County Superintendent shall appoint from among the members of the Board a President and/or Vice-President.

A President or Vice-President who refuses to perform a duty imposed upon him/her by law may be removed by a majority vote of all of the members of the Board. In the event the office of President or Vice-President shall become vacant the Board shall, within thirty days thereafter fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. If the Board fails to fill the vacancy within such time, the County Superintendent shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1; 18A:15-2

Adopted:



0153 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

The Board of Education may appoint at the organizational meeting, but shall appoint before July 1 of the year in which the Board organizes:

1. A Board Secretary,
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-2, 17-5;
2. A Treasurer of School Moneys,
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-31;
3. A public school accountant,
N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1;
4. A medical inspector,
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1;
5. A psychological examiner,
N.J.S.A. 18A:46-11;
6. A member to serve as delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association,
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-46;
7. An attendance officer,
N.J.S.A. 18A:38-32;
8. An assistant Board Secretary,
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-13;
9. A member to serve as delegate to the Mercer County School Boards Association;
10. An attorney; and
11. An insurance broker.

N.J.S.A. 18A:9-2; 18A:22-1

Adopted:



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Annual Motions and Designations

0154 ANNUAL MOTIONS AND DESIGNATIONS

The Board of Education shall at the organizational meeting:

1. Designate one or more depositories for school funds, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34;
2. Designate those persons authorized to sign school warrants, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1;
3. Designate the official newspaper, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-11; 18A:39-3;
4. Designate a second newspaper for the publication of Board meetings, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8;
5. Designate the day, place, and time for regular meetings of the Board;
6. Approve the curriculum for all grades; and
7. Readopt existing bylaws and policies for the Board's operation and the operation of the school system.

Adopted:



0155 BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board of Education authorizes the creation of committees of Board members charged to conduct studies, make recommendations to the Board, and act in an advisory capacity. Committees are not authorized to take action on behalf of the Board.

The President shall appoint Board members to serve a one-year term on the following Board standing committees:

- Human Resources Committee
- Finance Committee
- Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Policy Committee
- TEA Bargaining Committee
- PER Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Student Services Committee

An ad hoc committee may be created and charged at any time by the President or a majority of the Board members present and voting. The President shall appoint members to any committee so created and charged; members shall serve until the committee is discharged.

Committees shall consist of no more than three Board members, one of whom shall be the President, who shall serve as ex officio member on all Board committees. A member may request or refuse appointment to a committee; a member's refusal to serve on any one committee shall not prejudice his/her appointment to another committee.

The Board reserves the right to meet and work as a Committee of the Whole in informational, discussion, and exploratory sessions. No official action shall be taken at these meetings, unless so advertised.

A chairperson shall be appointed by the President.

Committee meetings may be called at any time by the committee chairperson or when a meeting is requested by a majority of the members of the committee.

Committee meetings shall not be open to the public, except that a majority of the committee or the chairperson may open the meeting to the public or invite persons whose knowledge or expertise may be useful to the committee.

Adopted:



0157 BOARD OF EDUCATION WEBSITE

For the purposes of keeping the community informed, the Board authorizes the web master to coordinate and oversee a school district website to be maintained on the Internet. All items to be posted on the website shall be approved by the Director of Technology, or designee, prior to posting. In the event the Director of Technology finds certain material that is submitted to be posted, should not be posted, the Director of Technology shall seek approval of the Superintendent or designee prior to posting such material. In the event the Superintendent or designee, upon review of the material from the Director of Technology, believes the material should not be posted on the website, the material shall not be posted.

The types of information that may be posted on the website include, but are not limited to:

1. Board Meeting public agendas;
2. Board Meeting approved minutes;
3. Board of Education policies;
4. Board of Education regulations;
5. Board of Education meeting dates;
6. School District News;
7. Information regarding school times, closings, procedures, schedules;
8. Frequently asked questions as they relate to Board functions;
9. School Administration Information;
10. Job Descriptions and postings;
11. Curriculum updates and guides;
12. Job postings;
13. Test score information from the School Report Card;
14. School E-Mail information;



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Board of Education Website

15. Phone directory;
16. Calendar and any other information the Superintendent determines appropriate for posting on the website.

Materials containing political or editorial points of view shall be prohibited from the website.

The Board and Superintendent shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the school district website and this Policy.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted:



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Call, Adjournment and Cancellation

0161 CALL, ADJOURNMENT AND CANCELLATION

The Board of Education shall meet in public session at least once every two months during the period in which the schools are in session.

All meetings shall be called to commence not later than 8:00 p.m. of the day designated.

A meeting not regularly scheduled may be called by the Board Secretary at the request of the President or upon the presentation to the Board Secretary of a petition requesting a meeting and signed by a majority of the full Board.

The Board may at any time recess or adjourn to an adjourned meeting at a time, date, and place announced before the adjournment takes place. The adjourned meeting shall take up its business at the point in the agenda where the motion to adjourn was passed.

When circumstances are such as to prevent the attendance of a majority or all of Board members or to frustrate the purpose of the meeting, a meeting may be canceled by the Board Secretary at the request of the President. Notice of the cancellation shall be given, by expedient means, to all Board members, to the Superintendent, and, whenever possible, to the newspapers in which notice of Board meetings is regularly given. If possible, written notice of the cancellation shall also be posted at the place where the canceled meeting was scheduled to occur. Notice of the cancellation shall include the date, time, and place of the next scheduled meeting. Notice of the cancellation shall be read at the next following Board meeting and shall be duly recorded in the official minute book.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted:



0162 NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will give notice of all meetings in accordance with law.

Public Notice

The Board Secretary shall notify, in writing and no later than forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting, each Board member and each person who has duly requested such notification of the time, date, location, and, to the extent it is known, the agenda of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting. Forty-eight hour notice shall also be posted in the Board office, delivered to two newspapers designated by the Board, and filed with the clerk of the City of Trenton, except that forty-eight hour notice is not required where the time, date, and location of the meeting has been published in the annual list of meetings approved by the Board in accordance with law.

Upon the affirmative vote of three-quarters of the members present, the Board may meet in the absence of adequate notice, provided that discussion and action is limited to specific and unforeseen or unforeseeable matters of such urgency and importance that delay for the provision of notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest and that notice is given as soon as possible after the call of the meeting in accordance with the provisions of law and this bylaw.

Personal Notice of Meeting

The Board shall provide personal notice in writing to an adult pupil, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a minor pupil, an employee or officer of this district, or a prospective employee whose privacy may be invaded or whose employment may be affected by the Board's deliberations in private session. Such personal notice will include the date and time of the private meeting, the subject or subjects scheduled for discussion at the private meeting, and the right of the individual given notice to request that the discussions be conducted at a public meeting. Personal notice will be given no less than forty-eight hours in advance of the private meeting.

A written request for public discussion must be signed by the person making the request and must be submitted to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. Any such properly submitted request will be granted. In the event that one or more, but fewer than all, of a group of persons whose employment will be discussed request a public meeting, the discussion regarding the person or persons who have submitted the request will be severed from the rest and will be conducted publicly.



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Notice of Board Meetings

A discussion held in public by reason of the written request of an individual will be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting for which annual notice has been given or at a meeting for which adequate public notice has been given in accordance with law.

Nothing in this bylaw will permit an employee to request or the Board to grant the public discussion of tenure charges or permit the public disclosure of information regarding a disabled pupil.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; 10:4-8d; 10:4-9b
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11; 18A:10-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted:



0163 QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of five Board members, and no business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum, except when the Doctrine of Necessity is invoked.

In the event a quorum is not present at the hour of convening, the meeting may be recessed to a time not later than 9:00 p.m. of the same day. If a quorum is not then present, the members present may adjourn the meeting to a later date within seven days.

The Board of Education recognizes that there may be matters that come before the Board or acts required of Board members in their official capacity where the Board member may have a conflict of interest or the act would be in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24. In these matters, the Board member(s) will remove himself/herself from any discussions, meetings (informal or formal), committee meetings, and/or a vote regarding the matter. The Board will consider this matter without the Board member(s) who has the conflict.

In the event a matter comes before the Board or an act is required of a Board member in his/her official capacity that is a conflict or would be in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24, the Board would still be required to have a quorum to consider the matter. However, the New Jersey Department of Education and the School Ethics Commission has envisioned this prohibition could create a situation in which so many Board members have a conflict, that the Board would be unable to take action on a matter. Therefore, when more than a quorum of the Board members must abstain from voting on a matter, the Board will invoke the Doctrine of Necessity consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education and School Ethics Commission guidelines as follows:

A. Board Member(s) in Conflict - Less Than a Majority of The Board

1. In the event a Board member(s) has a conflict of interest where the Board member will act in his/her official capacity, the Board member must remove himself/herself from any discussions, meetings (informal or formal), committee meetings, and/or a vote regarding the matter.
2. In the event a Board member is unsure whether he/she or any other Board member has a conflict of interest or whether the matter, if acted upon by a Board member(s) is in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 - Prohibited Acts, the School Board Attorney will make a determination.
3. The School Board Attorney will provide the Board of Education an opinion on whether the matter is a conflict of interest or act prohibited by N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 - Prohibited Acts.



4. If the Board member(s) believes he/she has a conflict of interest where he/she will act in his/her official capacity or if the School Board Attorney renders an opinion that the Board member has a conflict of interest where the Board member will act in his/her official capacity, the Board member will remove himself/herself from any discussions, meetings (informal or formal), committee meetings, and/or a vote regarding the matter.
- B. A Majority of Board Members in Conflict
1. In the event:
 - a. A Board member(s) believes he/she has a conflict of interest where he/she will act in his/her official capacity; or
 - b. If the School Board Attorney renders an opinion that the Board member(s) has a conflict of interest where the Board member will act in his/her official capacity; and
 - c. The number of Board members that have a conflict would make it so the Board would be unable to take action on the matter, then the Board may invoke the “Rule [or Doctrine] of Necessity.” (Citing *U.S. v. Will*, 449 U.S. 200 (1980)).
- C. Rule [Or Doctrine] Of Necessity
1. The Doctrine of Necessity may be invoked when more than a quorum of the Board must abstain from voting on a matter.
 2. There are three prerequisites necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity:
 - a. The Board must be unable to act without the members in conflict taking part;
 - b. There must be a pressing need for action, i.e. the matter cannot be laid aside until another date; and
 - c. There can be no alternative forum that can grant the same relief. (*Allen v. Toms River Regional Board of Education*, 233 N.J. Super 651 (Law Division 1989)).



3. When the School Board Attorney advises the Board the Doctrine of Necessity must be invoked in order to obtain a quorum on a vote, the Board must announce that it is invoking the Doctrine.
 - a. The announcement must include the reason the Board must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity including stating the nature of each Board members conflict.
 - b. The announcement will be in writing and should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting by the Board Secretary at the point when the vote takes place.
 - c. It is enough for the Board to announce it is invoking the Doctrine and a Board Resolution is not required.
4. When the Board announces the Doctrine of Necessity is being invoked, the details, parameters and/or other pertinent facts of the matter to be voted should be revealed on an agenda for the public meeting in which the matter is to be voted upon.
5. The Board members who have a conflict in the matter are prohibited from:
 - a. Participating in any discussions on the matter prior to the announcement and public meeting; and
 - b. From entering an executive session in order to discuss the merits of the matter or contract; and
 - c. From offering their opinions on the matter at any time prior to the announcement and public meeting.
6. The Board members who have a conflict in the matter may only participate to the extent they may vote after the motion to approve and/or ratify the matter has been made and seconded and the Doctrine of Necessity has been thoroughly explained to the public.
7. Board members in conflict may only ask questions regarding the matter to be voted on in public and after the Board has invoked the Doctrine of Necessity.



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Quorum

8. Board members in conflict may explain their reasons for not voting just before the vote.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24
New Jersey School Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion
A10-93(b) and A07-94

Adopted:



0164 CONDUCT OF BOARD MEETINGS

Parliamentary Authority

Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Board of Education in its deliberations and acts in all cases in which it is not inconsistent with statutes of the State of New Jersey, rules of the State Board of Education, or these bylaws.

Presiding Officer

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board. In the absence, disability, or disqualification of the President, the Vice President shall act in his/her place; if neither person is present, any member shall be designated by a plurality of those present to preside. The act of any person so designated shall be legal and binding.

Announcement of Adequate Notice

The person presiding shall commence each meeting with an announcement of the notice given for the meeting or a statement regarding the lack of adequate notice, in accordance with law.

Agenda

The Superintendent shall prepare an agenda of items of business to come before the Board at each meeting. The agenda shall be delivered to each Board member no later than two days before the meeting and shall include such reports and supplementary materials as are appropriate and available.

The order of business shall be as follows:

- Preliminary Actions
- Presentations
- Superintendent's Recommendation to the Board
- Board Comments
- Board Discussion on Consent Agenda
- Discussion on Board Committee Reports
- Board Policies
- Informal Adjournment Board Member Debriefing
- Adjourn to Executive Session
- Reopen Public Meeting
- Adjourn

N.J.S.A. 10:4-10

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1

Adopted:



0165 VOTING

All Board of Education actions requiring a vote may be conducted by voice, show of hands, or roll call provided that the vote of each member is recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Abstentions shall not be counted as votes but shall be recorded; a member who abstains from voting is deemed to acquiesce in the outcome of the vote.

All motions shall require for adoption the majority vote of Board members present and voting, except as provided by statutes of the State of New Jersey, this bylaw, or parliamentary authority and provided that the number of affirmative votes is at least a majority of the Board's quorum.

1. The affirmative votes of three-quarters of the members present are required for the conduct of a Board meeting when adequate notice has not been provided in accordance with law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-9;
2. A two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Board is required for:
 - a. Bids that have been advertised pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 on two occasions and;
 - (1) No bids have been received on both occasions in response to the advertisement; or
 - (2) The Board of Education has rejected such bids on two occasions because it has determined that they are not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates prepared for or by the Board of Education prior to the advertising therefore, or have not been independently arrived at in open competition; or
 - (3) On one occasion no bids were received pursuant to #(1) and on one occasion all bids were rejected pursuant to #(2), in whatever sequence; any such contract may then be negotiated.
 - b. Purchase of goods also available under state contract when the Board has received at least three quotations and the lowest responsible quotation is at least ten percent less than the price under the state contract for the identical goods and quantities, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5.e;



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- c. Determine that it is necessary, in a Type II school district having a Board of School Estimate, to sell bonds to raise money for any capital project, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-27; and
 - d. Sell bonds of a Type II district without further advertisement at private sale if no legally acceptable bid is received for the bonds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:24-45.
3. A majority vote of the full membership of the Board is required for:
 - a. Admission after October 1 of a pupil who has never attended school, N.J.S.A. 18A:38-6;
 - b. Adoption or alteration of a course of study, N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1;
 - c. Application for membership in an established county audiovisual aid center, N.J.S.A. 18A:51-11;
 - d. Appointment of a Superintendent, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-15; School Business Administrator, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-14.1; Board Secretary, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-5; Assistant Board Secretary, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-13; Administrative Principals, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.5; and Shared Superintendent or School Business Administrator, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-24.3. Appointment and removal of Assistant Superintendent(s), N.J.S.A. 18A:17-16 and appointment, salary, and removal of Business Manager in Type I school district, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-25.
 - e. Appointment, transfer, removal and/or renewal of teaching/certificated and/or non-certificated staff members, N.J.S.A. 18A:25-1, 27-1;
 - f. Fix and determine, in a Type II district having no Board of School Estimate, the amount of money to be raised for budgets and capital construction, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-32, 22-39;
 - g. Approval of employee salary deductions for hospital and insurance plans and government bonds, N.J.S.A. 18A:16-8;
 - h. Authorization, in Type II school districts, of school bonds, N.J.S.A. 18A:24-10;



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- i. Decision to establish with other school districts a county audiovisual educational aid center, N.J.S.A. 18A:51-1;
 - j. Determination of sufficiency of charges warranting dismissal or reduction in salary of a tenured employee, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11;
 - k. Disposition or exchange of lands owned by the Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5, 20-8;
 - l. Purchase of bonds or other obligations as investments, N.J.S.A. 18A:20-37;
 - m. Removal of the President or Vice President of the Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:15-2;
 - n. Restoration or removal following suspension of an Assistant Superintendent, Principal, or teacher, N.J.S.A. 18A:25-6;
 - o. Selection of textbooks, N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1;
 - p. Withholding a salary increment, N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14;
 - q. Direct the Secretary of the Board to deduct salaries of employees to participate in any plan for the purchase of bonds of the United States government, N.J.S.A. 18A:16-8;
 - r. Appointment and salary of Executive Superintendent in district in City of the first class with a population over 325,000 have a unit control organizational structure.
4. A roll call vote of the Board is required for the following actions with the necessary vote as indicated:

Issue	Required Vote
a. Salary deductions for government bonds N.J.S.A. 18A:16-8	Majority of full Board



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	Issue	Required Vote
b.	Appointment of a secretary of Board of Education; terms; compensation; vacancy N.J.S.A. 18A-17-5	Majority of full Board
c.	Assistant and acting secretaries; appointment, powers and duties N.J.S.A. 18A:17-13	Majority of full Board
d.	Appointment of Superintendents; terms; apportionment of expense N.J.S.A. 18A:17-15	Majority of full Board
e.	Appointment and removal of Assistant Superintendents N.J.S.A. 18A:17-16	Majority of full Board
f.	Appointment of Administrative Principals N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.5	Majority of full Board
g.	Appointment of shared Superintendent, School Business Administrator; terms N.J.S.A. 18A:17-24.3	Majority of the membership of each Board
h.	Appointment; salary; removal of Business Managers N.J.S.A. 18A:17-25	Majority of full Board
i.	Unit control organizational structure; Executive Superintendent N.J.S.A. 18A:17A-1	Majority of full Board
j.	Disposition of property N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5	Majority of full Board
k.	Exchange of lands N.J.S.A. 18A:20-8	Majority of full Board



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	Issue	Required Vote
l.	Type II districts with Board of School Estimate; determination; certification and raising of appropriations; notice of appeal N.J.S.A. 18A:22-26	Majority of full Board
m.	Type II districts with Boards of School Estimate; estimate by Board of Education; certification of estimate N.J.S.A. 18A:22-27	Two thirds of full membership of Board
n.	Determination of amounts by Board of School Estimate N.J.S.A. 18A:22-31	Board of School Estimate majority of full Board
o.	Type II districts without Board of School Estimate; determination and certification of appropriation N.J.S.A. 18A:22-32	Majority of full Board
p.	Type II districts without Board of School Estimate; submission of capital projects N.J.S.A. 18A:22-39	Majority of full Board
q.	School bonds, when deemed to be authorized Type II. N.J.S.A 18A:24-10	Majority of full Board
r.	Private sale if no bids at public sale N.J.S.A. 18A:24-45	Two thirds of full membership of Board
s.	Transfer of teaching staff member N.J.S.A. 18A:25-1	Majority of full Board
t.	Suspension of Assistant Superintendents, Principals and teaching staff members N.J.S.A. 18A:25-6	Majority of membership



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	Issue	Required Vote
u.	Appointment of teaching staff members; vote required N.J.S.A. 18A:27-1	Majority of full Board
v.	Board of Education, procedure for certain personnel actions; recommendation of Chief School Administrator N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1	Majority of full Board
w.	Renewal of personnel N.J.S.A. 18A:27-	Majority of full Board
x.	Withholding increments; causes notice appeals N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14	Majority of full Board
y.	District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1	Majority of full Board
z.	Textbooks; selection; furnished free with supplies; appropriations N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1	Majority of full Board
aa.	Single county educational audiovisual aids center in county N.J.S.A. 18A:51-11	Majority of full membership

N.J.S.A. 10:4-14

Adopted:



0166 EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

The Board of Education may meet in a private session only to discuss and act on issues exempted by law from the requirement that all Board meetings be public and only after the adoption at a public meeting of a resolution stating the general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed and, as precisely as possible, the time when and circumstances under which the discussion conducted in private session can be disclosed to the public.

The Board may exclude the public only from that portion of a meeting at which the Board discusses:

1. Any matter that has been rendered confidential by express provision of federal or state law or rule of court;
2. Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States;
3. Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of a pupil's privacy, including but not limited to records, data, reports, or recommendations relative to the pupil's personal and family circumstances, treatment, progress or condition, unless the adult pupil or the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requests in writing that the same be disclosed publicly;
4. Any Collective Bargaining Agreement, or the terms and conditions that are proposed for inclusion in any Collective Bargaining Agreement, including the negotiation of the agreement with school district employees or representatives of employees;
5. Any matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds or the investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;
6. Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public when their disclosure could impair such protection and any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;
7. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than as stated in #4 in which the Board is or may become a party and any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his/her ethical duties as a lawyer;



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Executive Sessions

8. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the Board, unless the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting, except that, regardless of the employee's request, the consideration and actions of the Board as to any tenure charge shall be conducted in private session;
9. Any deliberations occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of the responding party's certification as a result of an act or omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; 10:4-13

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11

Adopted:



0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public comment at every regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in Board Bylaw No. 0164.

Public participation shall be extended to residents of this district, persons having a legitimate interest in the actions of this Board, persons representing groups in the community or school district, representatives of firms eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board, and employees and pupils of this district, except when the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation by an alternate method provided for in policies or contracts of the Board.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;
2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes' duration.
3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;
5. The presiding officer may:
 - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;



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Public Participation in Board Meetings

- c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
- d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
- e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Adopted:



0168 RECORDING BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education directs the creation and maintenance of an official record of the formal proceedings of the Board and will permit the unofficial recording of Board meetings in accordance with this bylaw.

Minutes

The Board shall keep reasonably comprehensible minutes of all its meetings showing the time and place, the members present, the subject considered, the actions taken, the vote of each member, information sufficient to explain the actions taken, and any other information required to be shown in the minutes by law.

Minutes of public meetings shall be public records signed by the Board Secretary and filed in the Secretary's office in a minute book as the permanent record of the acts of this Board.

Minutes of executive meetings shall be filed in the Secretary's office in a place separate from the minute book until the time, if any, when the proceedings may be made public. At that time, the minutes shall be public records and shall be filed in the regular minute book.

The Secretary shall provide each Board member with a copy of the minutes no later than two days before the next regular Board meeting.

Taping of Public Meetings

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall tape record all public meetings of the Board in order to assure proper documentation of occurrences and the transcription of minutes. All tapes are the sole property of the Board, and any individual requesting access to these materials must do so in writing five working days in advance.

Tapes shall not be removed from the Board office and must be played in the presence of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee.

All tapes shall be stored in a locked cabinet located in the Board office and shall be destroyed in accordance with law.

Any member of the public wishing to audio or video record a Board of Education meeting shall give notice to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary prior to the meeting to be recorded.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-14

Adopted:



0169 BOARD MEMBER USE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL/INTERNET

The Board of Education is a public body as defined in the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.A.C. 10:4-6 et seq., and the Board and its members are required to comply with the provisions of this Act. It is the right of the public to be present at meetings of public bodies and to witness in full all phases of the deliberations, policy formulation, and decision-making. Board members acknowledge certain discussions between Board members, other than during a Board meeting, may be subject to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Board of Education is also subject to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. The Open Public Records Act requires public agencies/School Boards to make certain governmental records subject to public access. Board members may, by written and/or electronic mail (e-mail), communicate with each other and with certain school staff regarding the school district's public business. "Public business" means and includes all matters that relate in any way, directly or indirectly, to the performance of the public body's functions or the conduct of its business. Board members acknowledge these written communications may be classified as a governmental record and may be subject to public access pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

In order to ensure the Board and/or individual Board members comply with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act, the following guidance is provided regarding certain discussions and written communications regarding the public business:

1. Written letters, e-mails, and supporting documents regarding school district matters written by Board members to other Board members or written by Board members to school staff, unless the subject matter is specifically exempt under the Open Public Records Law, are governmental records and are subject to public access. Based on the potential for improper/inappropriate disclosure and/or breach of confidentiality that may compromise the Board or Board member, these communications should not involve confidential matters, especially any matter the Board may discuss in executive/private session outside the presence of the public pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. Written letters, internet (chat) discussions, e-mails, and supporting documents regarding the school district's public business written by Board members to other Board members shall not replace deliberations that would prevent the public from witnessing in full detail all phases of the Board's deliberations, policy formulation, and decision-making process in accordance with the intent of the Open Public Meetings Act.



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Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet

3. Internet (chat) discussions between Board members regarding the school district's public business shall not include multiple Board members with the potential that a quorum of the Board may be involved, or become involved, in such discussion.

In the event a Board member(s) fails to comply with the guidance of this Policy, the matter shall be referred to the Board President, who will meet and/or discuss the matter and this Policy with the Board member(s). The Board President may request the Board Attorney participate in this meeting and/or discussion.

N.J.S.A. 10:6-4 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Adopted:



0171 DUTIES OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

In accordance with GP6 and GP7, the President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall perform other duties as directed by statute, State Department of Education regulations, and this Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the President shall:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out State requirements and the will of the Board;
2. With the Superintendent, set the Board's agendas for each meeting;
3. Appoint Board Public Employee Relations (PER) and Linkage committees and chairpersons;
4. Appoint members and alternates to various liaisons and memberships to organizations requiring school Board representation;
5. Call such meetings of the Board as he/she may deem necessary upon at least two days notice;
6. Be an ex officio member of all Board committees unless he/she is a committee member;
7. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters which may occur between Board meetings; and
8. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings.

As presiding officer at all meetings of the Board, the President shall:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time;
2. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order;
3. Enforce the Board's policies relating to the order of business and the conduct of meetings;
4. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference;
5. Explain what the effect of a motion would be if it is not clear to every member;



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Duties of President and Vice President

6. Restrict discussion to the question when a motion is before the Board;
7. Answer all parliamentary inquiries, referring questions of law to the Board's attorney; and
8. Put motions to a vote, stating definitely and clearly the vote and result thereof.

The President shall have the right, as other Board members have, to offer resolutions, to discuss questions, and to vote.

The Vice President shall assume and discharge the duties of the President in the President's absence, disability, or disqualification. N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1

Adopted:



0172 DUTIES OF TREASURER OF SCHOOL MONIES

The Treasurer of School Monies shall:

1. Receive and hold in trust all school monies, except monies from athletic events and pupil organization activities, and deposit them in the bank or banks designated by the Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34;
2. Pay out school monies only on warrants made payable to the person entitled to receive payment and specifying the object for which it is issued and signed by the President, Secretary and Treasurer, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1;
3. Receive school employee payrolls and a warrant for the full amount of each payroll certified by the President and Secretary, deposit the warrants in a separate payroll account, and issue individual checks drawn on such account to each employee, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-9, 19-10;
4. Give public notice when funds are on hand for payment of interest bearing warrants issued for which no funds were available, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-12;
5. Keep a record of monies received and paid out in books provided for that purpose and in accordance with a bookkeeping system prescribed by the State Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-35;
6. Pay over the balance of school funds on hand to his/her successor, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-35;
7. Render a monthly report to the Board giving a detailed account of all receipts, the amounts of all warrants issued, the accounts from which they were drawn and the balance in each account, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36;
8. Render an annual report showing the amounts received and disbursed by him/her during the school year and file a copy with the County Superintendent, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36; and
9. Receive the proceeds of any bond sale and disburse them only to pay the expenses of issuing and selling the bonds, the purpose for which the bonds were issued, and the temporary investment of the funds, N.J.S.A. 18A:24-47.

Adopted:



0173 DUTIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

The Board will engage only a licensed public school accountant to conduct the annual audit in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq. The accountant must have an external peer/quality report performed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(i)1., unless the accountant or firm can show good cause as to why there was a delay completing such report within the required timelines established by Government Auditing Standards. The Board will require the submission of the most recent external peer/quality report for review and evaluation prior to the appointment of the licensed public school accountant. The Board will acknowledge the receipt, review, and evaluation of the external peer/quality report in the public session and Board minutes in which the accountant or firm to perform the audit is engaged.

The Board will require the submission of an updated external peer/quality report of the accountant within thirty days after the issuance date of the external peer/quality report if the report is issued prior to the date of the audit opinion for the most recent fiscal year.

In accordance with NJOMB Circular Letter 98-07, the public school accountant will provide a copy of the most recent external peer/quality report to the Department of Education, within thirty days after the initial engagement by the Board and within thirty days after the issuance of a subsequent peer/quality report.

The Board may be prohibited for good cause by the Commissioner of Education from engaging a particular licensed public school accountant, or may be directed by the Commissioner on a process to be used in the appointment of a licensed public school accountant pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(i)6.

The public school accountant will complete the annual audit as required by the Department of Education and N.J.S.A. 18A:23-2. Each annual audit shall include an audit of the books, accounts and moneys, and verification of all cash and bank balances of the Board and of any officer or employee and of moneys derived from athletic events or other activities of any organization of pupils conducted under the auspices of the Board, from the date of the last annual audit to the date of the current audit. The audit will also include a determination of the extent to which the district used contracts entered into by the State Division of Purchase and Property pursuant to P.L. 1969 c. 104 (C. 52:25-16.1 et seq.) in the purchase of materials, supplies or equipment for the district. The report of each audit will be completed not later than four months after the end of the school fiscal year as required in N.J.S.A. 18A: 23-1 and will be filed by the public school accountant in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-2.3.



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Duties of Public School Accountant

Within thirty days following receipt of the report the Board, at a regularly scheduled public meeting, will cause the recommendations of the accountant to be read and discussed and the discussion will be duly noted in the Board meeting minutes in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-5. The Board Secretary will prepare or have prepared a summary of the annual audit for this board meeting in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-4.

N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2 et seq.

Adopted:



0174 LEGAL SERVICES

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2, the Board of Education adopts this Policy and its strategies to ensure the use of legal services by employees and the Board of Education members and the tracking of the use of legal services.

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, Superintendent of Schools' designee, and Board President as designated contact persons to request services or advice from contracted legal counsel.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible to review all legal bills and confer with designated contact persons in reviewing such legal bills.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)2, the Board designates the administrative staff member to review all legal bills and designates contact persons to ensure the prudent use of legal services.

School districts with legal costs that exceed one hundred thirty percent of the Statewide average per pupil amount should establish the procedures outlined in 1., 2., 3., and 4. below and, if not established, provide evidence such procedures would not result in a reduction of costs.

1. The designated contact person(s) shall ensure that contracted legal counsel is not contacted unnecessarily for management decisions or readily available information contained in district materials such as Board policies, administrative regulations, or guidance available through professional source materials.
2. All requests for legal advice shall be made to the designated contact person(s) in writing and shall be maintained on file in the district offices. The designated contact person shall determine whether the request warrants legal advice or if legal advice is necessary.
3. The designated contact person(s) shall maintain a log of all legal counsel contact including the name of the legal counsel contacted, date of the contact, issue discussed, and length of contact.
4. All written requests for legal advice and logs of legal counsel contacts shall be forwarded to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who shall be responsible to review all legal bills and compare all legal bills to the contact logs and to investigate and resolve any variances.



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Legal Services

Any professional services contract(s) for legal services shall prohibit advance payments. Services to be provided shall be described in detail in the contract and invoices for payment shall itemize the services provided for the billing period. Payments to legal counsel(s) shall only be for services actually provided.

School districts and vocational school districts are prohibited from contracting with legal counsel or using in-house legal counsel to pursue any affirmative claim or cause of action on behalf of district administrators and/or any individual Board members or pursuing any claim or cause of action for which the damages to be awarded would benefit an individual rather than the school district as a whole.

The Board of Education will annually establish prior to budget preparation, a maximum dollar limit for each type of professional service, including legal services. In the event it becomes necessary to exceed the established maximum dollar limit for the professional service, the Superintendent of Schools shall recommend to the Board of Education an increase in the maximum dollar amount. Any increase in the maximum dollar amount shall require formal Board action.

Contracts for legal services will be issued by the Board in a deliberative and efficient manner that ensures the district receives the highest quality services at a fair and competitive price or through a shared service arrangement. This may include, but is not limited to, issuance of such contracts through a Request for Proposals (RFP) based on cost and other specified factors or other comparable processes. Contracts for legal services shall be limited to non-recurring or specialized work for which the district does not possess adequate in-house resources or in-house expertise to conduct.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2

Adopted:



0175 CONTRACTS WITH INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS

The Board of Education may from time to time engage the services of one or more independent contractors to advise and assist the Board in analyzing school district operations and preparing Board reports when those tasks cannot be performed as economically by district staff members.

Wherever possible, the Board will seek proposals from multiple sources before a contract with an independent consultant is entered. The Board will not contract with a Board member or the spouse, child, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or sibling, in fact or in law, of a Board member as an independent consultant.

The Board will engage the services of an independent consultant only by written contract, which must specify the work to be accomplished by the consultant, the time within which the work is to be completed, and the fee that will be paid the consultant. An independent consultant engaged by the Board is neither agent nor employee of the Board and may represent the Board only as expressly authorized to do so in writing.

An independent consultant may have access to such school facilities and school district employees as may be reasonably required in the performance of the consultant's contract with the Board. Except as expressly permitted by the contract, any communication between the consultant and a district employee or community member regarding the work of the contract must be conducted through the Board or a designated school official.

Materials and reports generated and created by the independent consultant in the performance of his/her contract with the Board are and will remain the property of the Board and are subject to Board Policy No. 8310 on public records.

Adopted:



0176 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND CONTRACT APPROVAL/RATIFICATION

The Board recognizes a Board member and/or a member of his/her immediate family may be a member of, or salary is determined by, a labor bargaining unit, professional association and/or union that has an affiliation with a bargaining unit, professional organization and/or union within the school district. The Board member does not automatically violate N.J.S.A. 18A:24 by voting to approve and/or ratify this contract solely on the basis of his/her status or that of an immediate family member with respect to membership or representation by a different local affiliate of the same statewide association with whom the agreement is made provided the Board member's involvement with such local affiliate has not or appears to have not compromised the member's objectivity or independence of judgment.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24, the Board member shall not participate in the collective bargaining process and/or serve on the negotiations committee representing the Board with this unit, association, and/or union. The Board member may be apprised of the terms of a tentative memorandum of agreement with this unit, association, and/or union in closed and/or open session only after a tentative memorandum of agreement has been reached. The Board member may vote during the public meeting to approve and/or ratify a contract with this bargaining unit, professional association and/or union.

The Board member shall not participate in any aspect of negotiations and/or vote to approve/ratify a tentative memorandum of agreement/contract ratification if the Board member has an immediate family who is a member of the bargaining unit, professional association and/or union within the school district. Under this circumstance, the Board member may only vote in the event the school Board attorney advises the Board the Doctrine of Necessity must be invoked in accordance with Policy No. 0163.

In addition, the School Ethics Commission Decision A16-00 states a Board member may not participate in any aspect of negotiations and/or vote to approve/ratify a tentative memorandum of agreement/contract ratification if the Board member has a "relative" who is a member of the bargaining unit, professional association and/or union within the school district. Under this circumstance, the Board member may only vote in the event the school Board attorney advises the Board the Doctrine of Necessity must be invoked in accordance with Policy No. 0163.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et. seq.

New Jersey School Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion A02-00 and A16-00

Commissioner of Education Decision - In the Matter of Bruce White, Ewing Township Board of Education, Mercer County - June 1, 2000

New Jersey State Board of Education Decision - In the Matter of Frank Pannucci, Board of Education of Brick Township, Ocean County - March 3, 2000

Adopted:



0177 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2, the Board of Education adopts this Policy and its strategies to minimize the cost of professional services.

The Board of Education will establish annually prior to budget preparation a maximum dollar limit for each type of professional service. In the event it becomes necessary to exceed the established maximum dollar limit for the professional services, the Superintendent of Schools shall recommend to the Board of Education an increase in the maximum dollar amount. Any increase in the maximum dollar amount shall require formal Board action.

Contracts for professional services will be issued by the Board in a deliberative and efficient manner that ensures the district receives the highest quality services at a fair and competitive price or through a shared service arrangement. This may include, but is not limited to, issuance of such contracts through a Request for Proposals (RFP) based on cost and other specified factors or other comparable processes. Contracts for professional services shall be limited to non-recurring or specialized work for which the district does not possess adequate in-house resources or in-house expertise to conduct.

Nothing in this Policy or N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 shall preclude the Board from complying with the requirements of any statute, administrative code, or regulation for the award of professional services contracts.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2

Adopted:

