

BOARD POWERS, DUTIES, AND ETHICS

The powers of the Board are exercised by its actions as an official group. Individual members of the Board have no greater power or authority than other citizens of the community unless meeting with other members of the Board in a legal meeting. Board members exercise their authority over district affairs only as they vote in legal meetings of the Board. In other instances, Board members have power only when the Board, by vote, has delegated authority to them, as allowed by law.

The powers and duties of the Board are defined in the School Laws of Oklahoma. Within these constraints, the Board views its functions thus:

- A. Legislative and policy making. The Board is responsible for the development of policies as guides for administrative action and for employing a superintendent to implement its policies.
- B. Appraisal. The Board is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of its policies and their implementation.
- C. Provision of financial resources. The Board is responsible for adoption of a budget which will enable the district to carry out Board policies.
- D. Public relations. The Board is responsible for keeping the citizenry informed about the needs of the school district.
- E. Educational planning and evaluation. The Board is responsible for establishing educational goals to guide the Board and staff in working toward

continuing improvement of the educational program. The Board will also provide for the evaluation of the school program against the goals set forth by the Board and by the State Board of Education.

The Board of Education strives to improve public education, and to that end members should:

- A. Attend all Board meetings as much as possible, and be informed about issues considered at those meetings;
- B. Make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings;
- C. Render decisions based on the available facts and their independent judgement;
- D. Encourage free expression of opinion by all Board members, and encourage communication among the Board, students, staff, and all elements of the community;
- E. Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and delegate authority for the administration of policy to the superintendent;
- F. Communicate to other Board members and the superintendent their understanding of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
- G. Be informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the Oklahoma and National School Boards Association;

- H. Support the employment of those best qualified to serve as staff and insist on a regular impartial evaluation of all staff;
- I. Refrain from influencing the hiring, assignment, reclassification, transfer, discipline and/or evaluation of staff beyond action required by law;
- J. Avoid conflicts of interest and refrain from using their Board positions for personal or political gain;
- K. Take no action that will compromise the Board or the administration, and respect confidentiality of information that is privileged; and
- L. Acknowledge that the greatest concern of board members must be the educational welfare of the students.

Legal Reference: Oklahoma Statutes 70 Supp. 1993, Sections
5-105 and 5-117