

LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

The Governing Board recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over MetroED and that a Board member has no individual authority. Board members shall hold the education of students above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest. The Board has broad but clearly limited powers. The exercise of its authority is restricted to the functions required or permitted by law, and the joint powers agreement, and then only when it acts in a legally constituted meeting.

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)
(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Members of the Board must endeavor to attend all meetings, study all materials presented with the agenda prior to attending the meeting, participate in the discussion of any items which come before the Board, and vote on all motions and resolutions, abstaining only for compelling reasons.

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the programs or command the services of any program employee. Individual Board members shall submit requests for information to the Superintendent. Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda, as appropriate.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Individual Board members do not have the authority to resolve complaints. Any Board member approached directly by a person with a complaint should refer the complainant to the Superintendent or designee so that the problem may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate MetroED process.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)
(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY (continued)

A Board member whose child is attending a MetroED program should be aware of his/her role as a Board member when interacting with MetroED employees about his/her child. Because his/her position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of MetroED personnel, the Board member should inform the Superintendent or designee before volunteering in his/her child's classroom.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)
(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the state's open meeting laws (Brown Act) to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board but has not yet assumed office.

Board members and persons elected to the Board who have not yet assumed office are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.1)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination*
7054 *Use of district property*
35010 *Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*
35100-35351 *Governing boards, especially:*
35160-35184 *Powers and duties*
35291 *Rules*
35292 *Visits to schools (Board members)*
51101 *Rights of parents/guardians*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54962 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*
54952.1 *Member of a legislative body of a local agency*
54952.7 *Copies of chapter to members of legislative body*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000
Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>