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## STATEMENT

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on August 28, 1991. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on December 14, 1994. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on March 11, 1997. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on April 11, 2000. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on June 14, 2005. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on June 9, 2009. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on August 11, 2014. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

All policies in Series 200 were reviewed by the Board of Directors on September 11, 2023. If changes were found to be necessary, the revision date was noted on the individual policies.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**STATEMENT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In this series, the Centerville Community School District Board of Directors shall define its role in the governance of the school district and distinguish between those activities which are appropriate to the Board of Directors as the legislative, governing body of the District. The function of the Board of Directors can be described as policy-making, appraisal, and evaluation.

The goal of the district is to achieve the mission statement of the school district.

As school officials elected by the people of the district, the Board of Directors shall ensure that the community is involved in assessing and is kept informed of the district needs, purposes, objectives, achievements, and status of the Centerville Community School District.

The intent of the Board of Directors is to establish policies and rules for conducting its business which ensure that the community has notice of and input into Board decisions and which ensure orderly and efficient procedures for conducting business. The Board shall be aware of the desires of the school district community, but needs of the students shall be considered above others.

The Board shall strive to meet the needs of students through evaluation of the financial and educational benefits of alternatives available to the Board and the district.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Community School District board is authorized by and derives its organization from Iowa law. The board will consist of 7 board members. Board members are elected at-large.

The board is organized for the purpose of setting policy and providing general direction for the school district. The board will hold its organizational meeting at or before the first regular meeting following the canvass of votes. The retiring board will transfer materials, including the board policy manual, and responsibility to the new board.

The organizational meeting allows the outgoing board to approve minutes of its previous meetings, complete unfinished business and review the school election results. The retiring board will adjourn and the new board will then begin. The board secretary will administer the oath of office to the newly-elected board members. The board secretary will preside while the new board elects the president and vice-president of the new board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 274.2; 275.23A; 277.23, .28, .31; 279.1, .5, .7, .8, .33. 281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: January 27, 2009

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PROCEDURES**

The board will hold its organizational meeting in odd-numbered years at or before the first regular meeting following the canvass of votes. Notice of the meeting's place and time will be given by the board secretary to each member, member-elect and the public.

The purpose of the meeting is to transfer material and responsibility from the outgoing board to the new board. At the meeting, the board will elect a president and a vice president who will hold office for one year. Once elected, the president and vice president will be entitled to vote on all matters before the board.

### Meeting Procedure

The organizational meeting of the board will be held in two parts: the final meeting of the outgoing board and the organizational meeting of the new board.

#### 1. Final Meeting of the Retiring Board

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting(s).
4. Visitors.
5. Unfinished business. a. Current claims and accounts (for the retiring board to authorize).
6. Examine and settle the books for the previous year.
7. Review of election results. The board secretary will present the county auditor's official report on the latest elections. Official results are recorded in the minutes.
8. Adjournment of the retiring board.

#### 2. Organizational Meeting of the New Board

1. Board secretary as president pro-tem, will preside over the meeting until a new board president is elected.
2. Call to order.
3. Roll call.
4. Oath of office. The board secretary will administer the oath to new members.
5. Election of a president of the board. The president pro-tem calls for nominations; nominations need not be seconded. The board will then vote on the nominations. The secretary will announce the result of the vote, and the board secretary will administer the oath of office to the newly elected president and the newly elected president will assume the chair.
6. Election of the vice-president. The president of the board will call for nominations; the nominations need not be seconded. The board will then vote on the nominations. The president will announce the results and administer the oath of office to the vice-president. Other items of business at the organizational meeting may include:
7. Board resolution of appreciation recognizing the public service rendered by retiring board members.
8. Determination of dates, times, and places for regular meetings of the board.

9. Board resolution to define the operating rules and practices that will be followed by the new board.
10. Board resolution to authorize the interim payment of bills pursuant to policy 705.03.
11. Visitors.
12. Superintendent's report.
13. Adjournment.

**POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The board, acting on behalf of the school district, will have jurisdiction over school matters within the territory of the school district.

The board is empowered to make policy for its own governance, for employees, for students and for school district facilities. The board is also empowered to enforce its policies. The board may, through its quasi-judicial power, conduct hearings and rule on issues and disputes confronting the school district.

The board has these powers and all other powers expressly granted to it in federal and state law as well as the powers that can be reasonably implied from the express powers.

Legal Reference: Board of Directors of Ind. School Dist. of Waterloo v. Green, 259 Iowa 1260, 147 N.W.2d 854 (1967). Iowa Code §§ 28E; 274.1-.2; 279.8. 281 I.A.C. 12.1(2).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board is authorized to govern the school district which it oversees. The board is entrusted with public funds and is responsible for overseeing the improvement of student outcomes, including student academic achievement and skill proficiency. As the governing board of the school district, the board has four duties to perform: legislative duty, executive duty, evaluative duty and quasi-judicial duty.

As a representative of the citizens of the school district community, the board is responsible for legislating policy for the school district. As a policy making body, the board has jurisdiction to enact policy with the force and effect of law for the management and operation of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the board, under the board's executive duty, to select its chief executive officer, the superintendent, to operate the school district on the board's behalf. The board delegates to the superintendent its authority to carry out board policy, to formulate and carry out rules and regulations and to handle the administrative details in a manner which supports and is consistent with board policy.

The board has a responsibility to review the education program's performance under its evaluative duty. The board regularly reviews the education program and ancillary services. The review includes a careful study and examination of the facts, conditions and circumstances surrounding the amount of funds received or expended and the education program's ability to achieve the board's educational philosophy and goals for the school district.

The board fulfills its quasi-judicial duties in serving as a neutral arbiter for hearings related to student suspension or expulsion proceedings and certain employment termination hearings and appeals. This important power was granted by the Iowa legislature and cannot be delegated. To preserve the board's neutrality to hear and decide upon these matters, the board does not investigate or become involved in student disciplinary matters or employment matters that may come before it and would require the board to serve in its quasi-judicial role.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 274.1; 279280.12.  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Date of Adoption: September 11, 2023

## BOARD MEMBER SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The board sees the value in promoting the excellent work and accomplishments of the district's students and staff. Social media is one of many effective communication tools that the district may utilize. Board members have been publicly elected to govern the district and accept a fiduciary responsibility. That responsibility means board members agree to always act in the best interests of the district. For this reason, the board shall expect that individual communications and social media posts made by board members will reflect the values and decorum expected of elected officials in the school community.

All board members enjoy rights to freedom of speech under both the U.S. and Iowa Constitutions. As such, the district will not limit protected speech of any board members. Certain categories of speech are not protected and may be subject to regulation. Additionally, board members should be aware that protected speech can still subject individuals to legal liability. Only the Board President is designated as official spokesperson authorized to speak on behalf of the board. Any postings by board members about district related matters on their individual social media accounts shall not be considered official action of the district. Official statements of the district shall be made only by district social media accounts through the designated spokespersons of the district or the entire board speaking as a governing body.

The board as a whole and individual board members in their governance role have legal obligations to safeguard the privacy of information related to student and employee matters. Board members will refrain from posting or communicating on social media in a way that violates the district's obligation to protect the privacy of its students and employees.

Board members are uniquely positioned in the school community to be both accessible and responsive to community concerns about the effective governance of the district. As a result, the board will remember their obligations to safeguard student and employee privacy when responding to any social media posts or communications, even if the response is intended to correct information for the rest of the school community. Board members will direct concerned individuals to the appropriate district staff to address their inquiry or complaint in accordance with board policy.

Legal Reference:       U.S. Const. Amend. I  
                              Iowa Const. Art. I, sec. 7  
                              *Lindke v. Freed, 601 U.S. (2024)*  
                              20 U.S.C. 1417(c)  
                              34 C.F.R. 99.3  
                              Iowa Code §§ 21; 22

Date of Adoption: September 11, 2023

Date of Revision: September 23, 2024

## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

The school election takes place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years. Each school election is used to elect citizens to the board to maintain a 7 member board and to address questions that are submitted to the voters.

Citizens of the school district community seeking a seat on the board must file their nomination papers with the board secretary, or the board secretary's designee in accordance with the timelines established by law.

If a vacancy occurs on the board it shall be filled in accordance with law and board policy.

It is the responsibility of the county commissioner of elections to conduct school elections.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 39; 45; 63; 69; 274.7; 277; 278.1; 279.7.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: January 11, 1994

Date of Revision: January 27, 2009

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## QUALIFICATIONS

Serving on the board of directors is an honor and privilege. Its rewards are respect from the community, students, and employees and the satisfaction from knowing each board member contributed to the success of the children in the school district community. Only those who are willing to put forth the effort to care and to make a difference should consider running for a position on the board.

Individuals who are willing to serve on the board should believe public education is important, support the democratic process, willingly devote time and energy to board work, respect educators and have the ability to examine the facts and make a decision. The board believes an individual considering a position on the school board should possess these characteristics.

Citizens wanting to run for a position on the board must be a citizen of the school district, an eligible elector of the district and free from a financial conflict of interest with the position.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 63; 68B; 277.4, .27; 279.7A.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: January 11, 1994  
Date of Revision: April 11, 2000  
Date of Revision: June 14, 2005  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Board members are officials of the state. As a state official, each board member must pledge to uphold the Iowa and the United States Constitutions and to carry out the responsibilities of the office to the best of the board members ability.

Each newly-elected board members will take the oath of office prior to any action taken as a school official. The oath of office is taken by each new board member elected at the school election at or before the organizational meeting of the board. In the event of an appointment or special election to fill a vacancy, the new board member shall take the oath of office within ten days of the appointment or election.

Board members elected to offices of the board will also take the same oath of office but replacing the “office of board member” with the title of the office to which they were elected.

The oath of office shall be administered by the board secretary and does not need to be given at a board meeting. In the event the board secretary is absent, the oath shall be administered by another board member.

"Do you solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Iowa, and that you will faithfully and impartially to the best of your ability discharge the duties of the office of (naming the office) in Centerville Community School District as now and hereafter required by law?"

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 277.28; 279.1, .6.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: January 27, 2009

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**TERM OF OFFICE**

Board members elected for a full term at a regularly scheduled school election in November, of odd-numbered years, serve for four years. Board members appointed to fill a vacant position will serve until a successor is elected and qualified at the next regular school election, unless there is an intervening special election for the school district, in which event a successor shall be elected at the intervening special election. A board member elected to fill a vacancy will serve out the unexpired term.

Being a board member is a unique opportunity for a citizen to participate on a governing board of the school district. Eligible board members are encouraged to consider running for more than one term.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 69.12; 274.7; 279.6; 279.7

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: August 12, 2008

Date of Revision: January 27, 2009

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**VACANCIES**

A vacancy occurs as provided by law, which includes but is not limited to when a board member dies, resigns or leaves office, or fails to reside in the school district or director district.

If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a term of office, the vacancy will be filled by board appointment within 30 days of the vacancy. The board shall publish notice stating that the board intends to fill the vacancy by appointment, but the electors of the school district have the right to file a petition within 14 days of the publication of the notice requiring the vacancy be filled by a special election.

A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified at the next regular school election, unless there is an intervening special election for the school district, in which event a successor shall be elected at the intervening special election.

If the board is unable to fill a vacancy by appointment within 30 days after the vacancy occurs or if a valid petition is submitted, the board secretary will call a special election to be held no sooner than 60 days and not later than 70 days after the vacancy occurred. A board member elected at the special election will serve the remaining portion of the unexpired

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 69; 277.29; 279. Good v. Crouch, 397 N.W.2d 757 (Iowa 1986). Board of Directors of Grimes Independent School Dist. v. County Board of Public Instruction of Polk Co., 257 Iowa 106, 131 N.W.2d 802 (1965). Board of Directors of Menlo Consol. School Dist. v. Blakesburg, 240 Iowa 910, 36 N.W.2d 751 (1949).

Date of Revision: October 12, 1993

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: June 14, 2005

Date of Revision: May 14, 2009

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITY**

Each school district of the public education system in Iowa is governed by a locally elected board of directors of the school corporation. The board operates as a corporate body, and only the board may make decisions or authorize others to act regarding the education program and the operations of the school district. Only the board has the power to take action affecting the school district.

Individual board members may only exercise their authority as a school board member when they vote to take action at a school board meeting. Individual board members, alone, have no authority to make any decision or take any action to affect the management of the school district. Without the consent of the board, an individual board member has no authority to act on behalf of the school district or the school board.

It shall be the responsibility of each board member and the superintendent to educate the public, the staff, and the students of the board member's authority to take action that affects the school district only when voting in a school board meeting.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023



## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Board members must be able to make decisions objectively. It is a conflict of interest for a board member to receive direct compensation from the school district, unless exempted in law or policy, for anything other than reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, including travel, incurred in the performance of official duties. A board member will not act as an agent for school textbooks or school supplies including sports apparel or equipment, in any transaction with a director, officer, or other staff member of the school district during the board member's term of office. It will not be a conflict of interest for board members to receive compensation from the school district for contracts for the purchase of goods or services which benefits a board member, or to compensation for part-time or temporary employment which benefits a board member, if the benefit to the board member does not exceed \$20,000 in a fiscal year or if the contracts are made by the board, upon competitive bid in writing, publicly invited and opened.

The conflict of interest provisions do not apply to a contract that is a bond, note or other obligation of a school corporation if the contract is not acquired directly from the school corporation, but is acquired in a transaction with a third party, who may or may not be the original underwriter, purchaser, or obligee of the contract, or to a contract in which a director has an interest solely by reason of employment if the contract was made by competitive bid, in writing, publicly invited and opened, or if the remuneration for employment will not be directly affected as a result of the contract and duties of employment do not involve any of the preparation or procurement of any part of the contract. The competitive bid section of the conflict of interest provision does not apply to a contract for professional services not customarily awarded by competitive bid.

It will also be a conflict of interest for a board member to engage in any outside employment or activity which is in conflict with the board member's official duties and responsibilities. In determining whether outside employment or activity of a board member creates a conflict of interest, situations in which an unacceptable conflict of interest is deemed to exist includes, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) The outside employment or activity involves the use of the school district's time, facilities, equipment and supplies or the use of the school district badge, uniform, business card or other evidence of office to give the board member or member of the board member's immediate family an advantage or pecuniary benefit that is not available to other similarly situated members or classes of members of the general public. For purposes of this section, a person is not "similarly situated" merely by being related to a board member.
- (2) The outside employment or activity involves the receipt of, promise of, or acceptance of money or other consideration by the board member or a member of the board member's immediate family from anyone other than the state or the school district for the performance of any act that the board member would be required or expected to perform as part of the board member's regular duties or during the hours in which the board member performs service or work for the school district.
- (3) The outside employment or activity is subject to the official control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement authority of the board member, during the performance of the board member's duties of office or employment.

**Code No. 203 (continued)**

If the outside employment or activity is employment or activity in (1) or (2) above, the board member must cease the employment of or activity. If the activity or employment falls under (3), then the board member must:

- Cease the outside employment or activity; or;
- Publicly disclose the existence of the conflict and refrain from taking any official action or performing any official duty that would detrimentally affect or create a benefit for the outside employment or activity. Official action or official duty includes, but is not limited to, participating in any vote, taking affirmative action to influence any vote, determining the facts or law in a contested case or rulemaking proceeding, conducting any inspection, or providing any other official service or thing that is not available generally to members of the public in order to further the interests of the outside employment or activity.

When procurement is supported by Federal Child Nutrition funds, board members will not participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract if there is a real or apparent conflict of interest in the contract. Contract, for purposes of this paragraph, includes a contract where the board member, board member's immediate family, partner, or a non-school district employer of these individuals is a party to the contract.

It is the responsibility of each board member to be aware of and take the action necessary to eliminate a potential conflict of interest should it arise.

Legal Reference: 22 C.F.R. § 518.42.  
Iowa Code §§ 68B; 71.1; 277.27; 279.7A; 301.28.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: January 19, 1993  
Date of Revision: October 12, 1993  
Date of Revision: March 11, 1997  
Date of Revision: September 12, 2000  
Date of Revision: March 9, 2004  
Date of Revision: June 14, 2005  
Date of Revision: September 8, 2009  
Date of Revision: August 8, 2022  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## CODE OF ETHICS

The members of the Board of Directors of the Centerville Community School District shall strive to follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

### AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER:

1. I will listen.
2. I will respect the opinion of others.
3. I will recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
4. I will be motivated only by an earnest desire to serve my district and the children of my school district community in the best possible way.
5. I will not use the schools or any part of the school program for my own personal advantage or for the advantage of my friends or supporters.
6. I will vote for a closed session of the board if the situation requires it, but I will consider "star chamber" or "secret" sessions of board members unethical.
7. I will recognize that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition which is to be considered, is to close my mind and agree not to think through other facts and points of view which may be presented in the meeting.
8. I will expect, in board meetings, to spend more time on educational programs and procedures than on business details.
9. I will recognize that authority rests with the board in legal session, and not with individual members of the board, except as authorized by law.
10. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the board meeting, about other members of the board or their opinions.
11. I will express my honest and most thoughtful opinions frankly in board meetings in an effort to have all decisions made for the best interests of the children and the education program.
12. I will insist that all members of the board participate fully in board action and recommend that when special committees are appointed, they serve only in an investigating and advisory capacity.
13. I will abide by majority decisions of the board.
14. I will carefully consider petitions, resolutions, and complaints, and will act in the best interests of the school district.
15. I will not discuss the confidential business of the board in my home, on the street, or in my office. The place for such discussion is the school board meetings.
16. I will endeavor to keep informed on local, state, and national educational developments of significance so I may become a better school board member.

### IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY COMMUNITY:

1. I will consider myself a trustee of public education and will do my best to protect it, conserve it, and advance it, giving to the children of my school district community the educational facilities that are as complete and adequate as it is possible to provide.
2. I will consider it an important responsibility of the board to interpret the aims, methods, and attitudes of the schools to the community.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

3. I will earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the school district community and do my best to translate them into the educational program of the school district.
4. I will attempt to procure adequate financial support for the school district.
5. I will represent the entire district rather than individual electors, patrons, or groups.
6. I will not regard the school district facilities as my own private property, but as the property of the people.

**IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF:**

1. I will function, in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine, as a part of a legislative, evaluative, policy-forming body, not as an administrative officer.
2. I will recognize that it is my responsibility, together with that of my fellow board members, to see the school district is properly run and not to run them myself.
3. I will expect the school district to be administered by the best-trained technical and professional people it is possible to procure within the financial resources of the school district.
4. I will recognize the superintendent as executive officer of the board.
5. I will work through the administrative employees of the board, not over or around them.
6. I will expect the superintendent to keep the school board adequately informed through oral and written reports.
7. I will vote to employ personnel only after the recommendation of the superintendent has been received.
8. I will insist that contracts be equally binding on the teacher and the school board.
9. I will give the superintendent power commensurate with the superintendent's responsibility and will not in any way interfere with, or seek to undermine, the superintendent's authority.
10. I will give the superintendent friendly counsel and advice.
11. I will present any personal criticism of employees to the superintendent.
12. I will refer complaints to the proper administrative officer.

**TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER SCHOOL BOARDS:**

1. I will not help to employ a superintendent, principal, or teacher who is already under contract with another school without first securing assurance from the proper authority that the person can be released from contract.
2. I will consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a neighboring board or its representatives.
3. I will associate myself with school board members of other districts, for the purpose of discussing school problems and cooperating in the improvement of public school conditions.

Legal Reference: 22 C.F.R. § 518.42. Iowa Code §§ 68B; 71.1; 277.27; 279.7A; 301.28.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**BOARD MEMBER LIABILITY**

Board members shall not be held personally liable for actions taken in the performance of their duties and responsibilities vested in them by the laws of Iowa and the members of the school district community. In carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their office, board members shall act in good faith.

The school district shall defend, save harmless, and indemnify board members against tort claims or demands, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring within the scope of their duties, unless it constitutes a willful or wanton act or omission. However, the school district cannot save harmless or indemnify board members for punitive damages.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**SECURITY/PROTECTION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

Public bodies must feel free to meet in the public setting as required by law without concern of risk of personal injury. The board shall take whatever action is necessary to maintain an orderly school board meeting, free from interference or interruption by spectators, and to keep the board members safe while complying with the open meetings law.

Individuals who threaten the board with violence or who are continuously disruptive may be asked to leave the meeting. If the individuals do not leave, the board may have law enforcement officials escort the individual or individuals from the board meeting.

Legal Reference: Wood v. Strickland, 420 U.S. 308 (1975).  
42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 1985  
Iowa Code ch. 670.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**PRESIDENT**

It is the responsibility of the school board president to lead a well-organized board in an efficient and effective manner and, as the representative of the consensus of the board, speak on behalf of the board to the public.

The president of the board is elected to serve a one-year term by a majority vote at the organizational meeting in odd-numbered years, or, in even-numbered years, at a regular meeting held between twelve to thirteen months after the most recent organizational meeting.

The president, in addition to presiding at the board meetings, will take an active role in board decisions by discussing and voting on each motion before the board in the same manner as other board members. Before making or seconding a motion, the board president will turn over control of the meeting to either the vice-president or other board member.

The board president has the authority to call special meetings of the board. Prior to board meetings, the board president will consult with the superintendent on the development of the agenda for the meeting. The board president, as the chief officer of the school district, will sign employment contracts and sign other contracts and school district warrants approved by the board and appear on behalf of the school corporation in causes of action involving the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.1-.2; 291.1.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September, 1991

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**VICE PRESIDENT**

The vice-president of the board is elected by a majority vote at the organizational meeting of in odd-numbered years, or, in even-numbered years, at a regular meeting held between twelve to thirteen months after the most recent organizational meeting, to serve a one-year term of office.

By this election, if the board president is unable or unwilling to carry out the duties required, it is the responsibility of the Vice-President of the board to carry out the duties of the president. If the president is unable or unwilling to complete the term of office, the vice-president will serve as president for the balance of the president's term of office, and a new vice-president will be elected.

The vice-president will accept control of the meeting from the president when the president wishes to make or second a motion. The vice-president will take an active role in board decisions by discussing and voting on matters before the board in the same manner as other board members.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.5

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000

Date of Revision: June 14, 2005

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023



**SECRETARY-TREASURER**

A board secretary-treasurer may be appointed from employees, other than a position requiring a teaching certificate, or from the public. To finalize the appointment, the board secretary-treasurer will take the oath of office during the meeting at which the individual was appointed or no later than ten days thereafter. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to evaluate the board secretary-treasurer annually.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary-treasurer, as custodian of school district records, to preserve and maintain the records and documents pertaining to the business of the board; to keep complete minutes of special and regular board meetings, including closed sessions; to keep a record of the results of regular and special elections; to keep an accurate account of school funds; to sign warrants drawn on the school funds after board approval; and collect data on truant students. The board secretary-treasurer will also be responsible for filing the required reports with the Iowa Department of Education.

It is the responsibility of the secretary-treasurer to oversee the investment portfolio, to receive funds of the school district, to pay out the funds for expenses approved by the board, to maintain accurate accounting records for each fund, to report monthly regarding the investment portfolio and the status of each fund and to file required reports with the appropriate state agencies and other entities. It will also be the responsibility of the secretary-treasurer to coordinate the financial records, the financial reports, the cash flow needs, and the investment portfolio of the school district.

In the event the board secretary-treasurer is unable to fulfill the responsibilities set out by the board and the law, Superintendent will assume those duties until the board secretary-treasurer is able to resume the responsibility or a new board secretary-treasurer is appointed. The board secretary-treasurer will give bond or be covered by an insurance policy in an amount set by the board. The cost of the bond or insurance policy will be paid by the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 12B.10; 12C; 64; 279.3, .5, .7, .32, .33, .35;  
291.2-.4, .6-.8, .10-.11; 299.10.  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(1).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: February 9, 1993  
Date of Revision: March 11, 1997  
Date of Revision: September 14, 2004  
Date of Revision: May 14, 2009  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023  
Date of Revision: September 23, 2024

## LEGAL COUNSEL

It is the responsibility of the board to employ legal counsel to assist the board and the administration in carrying out their duties with respect to the numerous legal issues confronting the school district. The board may appoint legal counsel at its annual meeting.

The superintendent and board secretary will have the authority to contact the board's legal counsel on behalf of the board when the superintendent or board secretary believes it is necessary for the management of the school district. The board president may contact and seek advice from the school board's legal counsel. The board's legal counsel will attend both regular and special school board meetings upon the request of the board or the superintendent. Board members may contact legal counsel upon approval of a majority of the board. It is the responsibility of each board member to pay the legal fees, if any, of an attorney the board member consulted regarding matters of the school district unless the board has authorized the board member to consult an attorney on the matter.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board informed of matters for which legal counsel was consulted, particularly if the legal services will involve unusual expense for the school district.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**COMMITTEES/AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Whenever the board deems it necessary, the board may appoint a committee composed of citizens, employees, or students to assist the board. Committees formed by the board are ad hoc committees.

An ad hoc committee may be formed by board resolution which will outline the duties and purpose of the committee. The committee is advisory in nature and has no duty or responsibility other than that specifically stated in the board resolution. The committee will automatically dissolve upon the delivery of its final recommendation to the board or upon completion of the duties outlined in the board resolution. The board will receive the report of the committee for consideration. The board retains the authority to make a final decision on the issue. The committee may be subject to the open meetings law.

The method for selection of committee members will be stated in the board resolution. When possible, and when the necessary expertise required allows, the committee members will be representative of the school district community and will consider the various viewpoints on the issue. The board may designate a board member and the superintendent to serve on an ad hoc committee. The committee will select its own chairperson, unless the board designates otherwise.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 279.8; 280.12(2).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(3), .3(8); .5(8).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: September, 1991  
Date of Revision: October 12, 1993  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

### Ad Hoc Committee Purpose and Function

The specific purpose of each ad hoc committee varies. Generally, the primary function of an ad hoc committee is to give specific advice and suggestions. The advice and suggestions should focus on the purpose and duties stated in the board resolution establishing the committee. It is the board's role to take action based on information received from the ad hoc committee and other sources. Ad hoc committees may be subject to the open meetings law.

### Role of an Ad Hoc Committee Member

The primary role of an ad hoc committee member is to be a productive, positive member of the committee. In doing so, it is important to listen to and respect the opinions of others. When the ad hoc committee makes a recommendation to the board, it is important for the ad hoc committee members to support the majority decision of the ad hoc committee. An ad hoc committee will function best when its members work within the committee framework and bring items of business to the ad hoc committee.

### Ad Hoc Committee Membership

Ad hoc committee members are appointed by the board. The board may request input from individuals or organizations, or it may seek volunteers to serve. Only the board or superintendent has the authority to appoint members to an ad hoc committee. Boards must follow the legal limitations or requirements regarding the membership of an ad hoc committee.

Date of Adoption: October 12, 1993

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT/FORMATION**

The board has jurisdiction to legislate policy for the school district with the force and effect of law. Board policy provides the general direction as to what the board wishes to accomplish and why it wishes to accomplish it while allowing the superintendent to implement board policy.

The written policy statements contained in this manual provide guidelines and goals to the citizens, administration, employees and students in the school district community. The policy statements are the basis for the formulation of regulations by the administration. The board will determine the effectiveness of the policy statements by evaluating periodic reports from the administration.

Policy statements may be proposed by a board member, administrator, employee, student or member of the school district community. Proposed policy statements or ideas will be submitted to the superintendent's office for possible placement on the board agenda. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to bring these proposals to the attention of the board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 274.1-.2; 279.8. 281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: October 12, 1993

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**ADOPTION OF POLICY**

The board will give notice of adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two regular board meetings. This notice procedure will be required except for emergency situations. If the board adopts a policy in an emergency situation, a statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy will be included in the minutes. The board will have complete discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.

The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy will be approved by a simple majority vote of the board at the next regular meeting after the meeting allowing public discussion. The policy will be effective on the later of the date of passage or the date stated in the motion.

In the case of an emergency, a new or changed policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the board. The emergency policy will expire at the close of the third regular meeting following the emergency action, unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8. 281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: October 12, 1993

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**DISSEMINATION OF POLICY**

A board policy manual shall be housed in each attendance center, Drake Public Library, and in the administration office. Electronic files containing board policies may be substituted for paper copies.

The board secretary shall ensure that copies of new and revised policy statements are distributed to keepers of board policy manuals within a reasonable time, normally considered to be 7 working days.

Board members shall keep the manual current and up-to-date. A member shall surrender the manual at the conclusion of a term of office to the board secretary.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: October 12, 1993  
Date of Revision: March 11, 1997  
Date of Revision: June 14, 2005  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**SUSPENSION OF POLICY**

Generally, the board will follow board policy and enforce it equitably. The board, and only the board, may, in extreme emergencies of a very unique nature, suspend policy. It is within the discretion of the board to determine when an extreme emergency of a very unique nature exists. Reasons for suspension of board policy will be documented in board minutes.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8. 281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023



**ADMINISTRATION IN ABSENCE OF POLICY**

When there is no board policy in existence to provide guidance on a matter the superintendent is authorized to act appropriately under the circumstances surrounding the situation, keeping in mind the educational philosophy and financial condition of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to inform the board of the situation and the action taken and to document the action taken. If needed, the superintendent shall draft a proposed policy for the board to consider.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8. 281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION

The board shall, at least once every five years, review board policy. Once the policy has been reviewed, even if no changes were made, a notation of the date of review shall be made on the face of the policy statement.

The board will review one-fifth of the policy manual annually according to the following areas:

- Board of Directors (Series 200)
- Administration, Employees (Series 300 and 400)
- School District, Education Program (Series 100 and 600)
- Students (Series 500)
- Noninstructional Operations and Business Services, Building and Sites, School District-Community Relations (Series 700, 800 and 900)

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board informed as to legal changes at both the federal and state levels. The superintendent will also be responsible for bringing proposed policy statement revisions to the board's attention.

If a policy is revised because of a legal change over which the board has no control or a change which is minor, the policy may be approved at one meeting at the discretion of the board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8. 281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: January 25, 2000

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

Board policy sets the directions for the administration for the education program and school district operations. Some policies require administrative regulations for implementation.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations implement the board policies.

The administrative regulations will be available no later than the first regular board meeting after the adoption of the board policy unless the board directs otherwise.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Each year after August 31 and prior to the organizational meeting of the board in odd numbered years, the board will hold its annual meeting.

At the annual meeting, the board will examine the financial books and settle the secretary's and treasurer's statements for the fiscal year ending the preceding June 30. As part of the annual reports, the treasurer will present affidavits from depository banks. The board may also appoint the board's legal counsel.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.1, .3, .33.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: July 10, 2001

Date of Revision: March 9, 2004

Date of Revision: June 9, 2009

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting time and date shall be set by the board at its organizational meeting each September. These meetings will be held at the Administration Offices, 634 North Main, Centerville, or such other sites within the district as the board may determine.

The regular meetings of the board will be held on second Monday of each month. Meetings will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. The board will adhere to this meeting date and time unless the board requires additional meetings or, due to circumstances beyond the board's control, the meeting cannot be held on the regular meeting date, and the meeting will be re-scheduled in accordance with law and policy. Public notice of the meetings will be given.

The board shall adhere to this meeting date unless the board requires additional meetings or due to circumstances beyond the board's control. Public notices shall be given for meetings.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21.3, .4; 279.1

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: October 12, 1993

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**SPECIAL MEETINGS**

It may be necessary for the board to conduct a special meeting in addition to the regularly scheduled board meeting. Special meetings may be called by the president of the board or by the board secretary at the request of a majority of the board. Should a special meeting be called, public notice will be given.

If the special meeting called is an emergency meeting and the board cannot give public notice in its usual manner, the board will give public notice of the meeting as soon as practical and possible in light of the situation. Emergency meetings will only be held when an issue cannot wait twenty-four hours necessary for a special meeting. The reason for the emergency meeting and why notice in its usual manner could not be given will be stated in the minutes.

Only the purpose or issue for which the special meeting was called may be discussed and decided in the special meeting. The board will strictly adhere to the agenda for the special meeting and action on other issues will be reserved for the next regular or special board meeting.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21.3, .4; 279.2.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## WORK SESSIONS

The board, as a decision making body, is confronted with a continuing flow of problems, issues and needs which require action. While the board is determined to expedite its business, it is also mindful of the importance of planning, brainstorming and thoughtful discussion without action. Therefore, the board may schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide its members and the administration with such opportunities. The board has the authority to hire an outside facilitator to assist them in work sessions.

Topics for discussion and study will be announced publicly, and work sessions and retreats will be conducted in open session. No board action will take place at the work session.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 279.8.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990 Code No. 212.4

Date of Revision: October 12, 1993 (Code 213.1)

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000 (213.1 now combined under 212.4)

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**MEETING NOTICE**

Public notice will be given for meetings and work sessions held by the board. Public notice will indicate the time, place, date, and tentative agenda of the school board meetings. The public notice will be posted in a prominent place clearly designated for posting agendas in the central administration office, and on an exterior facing door/window so that community members may see the agenda when the building is physically closed. The agenda will be posted at least one day before it is scheduled, but, at the minimum, twenty-four hours notice needs to be given.

A copy of the public notice will be provided to those who have filed a request for notice with the secretary. A copy of the public notice will also be accessible to employees and students.

In the case of special meetings, public notice will be given in the same manner as for a regular meeting unless it is an emergency meeting. In that case, public notice of the meeting will be given as soon as practical and possible in light of the situation. The media and others who have requested notice will be notified of the emergency meeting. Attendance at a special meeting or emergency meeting by the media or any other individual shall constitute a waiver of notice.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary to give public notice of board meetings and work sessions.

Legal Reference: Dobrovolny v. Reinhardt, 173 N.W.2d 837 (Iowa 1970).  
Iowa Code §§ 21.2-.4; 279.1, .2.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023



## QUORUM FOR MEETINGS

Action by the board regarding the affairs of the school district may be taken only when a quorum, a majority of the board members, is in attendance at the board meeting. While in person participation is encouraged, board members may attend meetings either in person or electronically provided each member can hear and be heard in real time by all members present and the public.

While board members are encouraged to attend board meetings, 4 members will constitute a quorum and are a sufficient number to transact business of the school corporation. The adjournment of a meeting may be executed without a quorum.

An affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast is sufficient to pass a motion or take action unless law or board policy requires a vote of a greater number.

It is the responsibility of each board member to attend board meetings.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21.5(1); 279.4.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## RULES OF ORDER

An orderly board meeting allows the board members to participate in the discussion and decision process on an issue confronting the school district. Rules of order for board meetings allow school district business and the relative information concerning the business to be brought to the attention of the board. They also allow the board to discuss, act upon and make a clear record of school district business in a regular, ordered, reasonable and consistent manner.

The board will follow Robert's Rule of Order, Revised, latest edition as modified by this policy and subsequent rule.

The purpose of modified rules adopted by the board are:

- To establish guidelines by which the business of the governing board can be conducted in a regular and internally consistent manner;
- To organize the meetings so all necessary matters can be brought to the board and decisions of the board can be made in an orderly and reasonable manner;
- To ensure members of the board, concentrating on the substantive issues at hand, have the necessary information to make decisions, and to ensure adequate discussion of decisions to be made; and,
- To ensure meetings and actions of the board are conducted so as to be informative to the staff and the public, and to produce a clear record of actions taken and decisions made.

It is the responsibility of each board member to follow the rules of order stated in this policy at each meeting, and it is the responsibility of the presiding officer to conduct the board meeting within these rules.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21.2, .7; 279.8.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**RULES OF ORDER – REGULATION**

The following rules of procedure have been adopted by the board at the annual or organizational meeting:

1. Board members need not rise to gain the recognition of the board president.
2. All motions will be made as a positive action.
3. A motion will be adopted or carried if it receives an affirmative vote from more than half of the votes cast. Only "yes" and "no" votes are counted in this calculation. It should be noted that some motions require larger numbers of affirmative votes, such as to move into a closed session.
4. All motions shall receive a second, prior to opening the issue for discussion of the board. If a motion does not receive a second, the board president may declare the motion dead for lack of a second.
5. The board president may decide the order in which board members will be recognized to address an issue. An attempt should be made to alternate between pro and con positions.
6. The board president shall rule on all motions that come before the board.
7. The board president may rule on points of order brought before the board.
8. The board president shall have complete authority to recognize a member of the audience regarding a request to participate in the board meeting. Members of the public who wish to participate shall follow board policy.
9. The board president has the authority to declare a recess at any time for the purpose of restoring decorum to the meeting.
10. The board president has the same authority and responsibility as each board member to vote on all issues

Date of Adoption: September 11, 2023

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

The tentative agenda for each board meeting will state the topics for discussion and action at the board meeting. The agenda is part of the public notice of the board meeting and will be posted and distributed.

Persons requesting to place an item on the agenda must make a request to the superintendent prior to the drafting of the tentative agenda. The person making the request must state the person's name, address, purpose of the presentation, action desired and pertinent background information. Requests from the public may be added to the tentative agenda at the discretion of the superintendent after consultation with the board president. Requests received after the deadline may only be added to the agenda for good cause.

The tentative agenda and supporting documents will be sent to the board members at least 2 days prior to the scheduled board meeting. These documents are the private property of the board member. Persons wishing to view the tentative agenda and supporting documents may do so at the central administration office.

The board will take action only on the items listed on the tentative agenda posted with the public notice. Items added to the agenda may be discussed or taken under advisement by the board. If an added item is acted upon, the minutes of the board meeting will state the reason justifying the immediate action.

It is the responsibility of the board president and superintendent to develop the agenda for each board meeting. Any board member may place an item on the next regular agenda with the consent of a majority of the board. Board members wishing to do so should provide notice to the superintendent and board president.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 279.8.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000

Date of Revision: June 14, 2005

Date of Revision: June 9, 2009

Date of Revision: August 11, 2014

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Very often the board must consider agenda items which are noncontroversial or similar in content. Such agenda items might include ministerial tasks such as, but not limited to, the approval of the agenda, approval of previous minutes, approval of bills, approval of reports, etc. These items might also include similar groups of decisions such as, but not limited to, approval of staff contracts, approval of maintenance details for the school buildings and grounds, open enrollment requests or approval of various schedules.

In order for a more efficient administration of board meetings, the board may elect to use a consent agenda for the passage of noncontroversial items or items of a similar nature.

The superintendent in consultation with the board president and board secretary shall place items on the consent agenda. By using a consent agenda, the board has consented to the consideration of certain items as a group under one resolution. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a board member.

Nothing in this policy is to be construed as an attempt to avoid full compliance with laws dealing with open meetings or public notice of the agenda and meeting.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 279.8.

Date of Adoption: September 11, 2023

**OPEN MEETINGS**

A gathering of a majority of board members either in person or electronically in which deliberation of an issue within the scope of the board's policy making duties takes place is a board meeting. A gathering for the purpose of social or ministerial action will not constitute a board meeting when there is no discussion of policy or no intent to avoid the purpose of the open meetings law. Meetings of the board will be conducted in an open meeting unless a closed session is authorized by law or the meeting is exempt from the open meetings law.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21, 279.1-.2.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: October 12, 1993

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## CLOSED SESSIONS

Generally, board meetings will be open meetings, unless a closed session is provided for by law. Closed sessions take place as part of an open meeting. The board may enter into a closed session for any reason permitted by law.

The item for discussion in the closed session will be listed as part of the tentative agenda on the public notice with the full text of the Iowa Code citation reference stated on the agenda. The motion for a closed session, stating the purpose for the closed session, will be made and seconded during the open meeting. A minimum of two-thirds of the board, or all of the board members present, if any are absent, must vote in favor of the motion on a roll call vote. Closed sessions will be recorded and have detailed minutes kept by the board secretary. No voting will take place in the closed session. Final action on matters discussed in the closed session will be taken in an open meeting.

The minutes and recording will restate the motion made in the open meeting, the roll call vote, the members present, and the time the closed session began and ended. The recordings and the written minutes will be kept for one year from the date of the meeting. Real estate related minutes and recordings will be made public after the real estate transaction is completed.

The detailed minutes recording will be sealed and will not be public records open to public inspection. The minutes recording will only be available to board members or opened upon court or administrative order in an action to enforce the requirements of the open meetings law. The board has complete discretion as to whom may be present at a closed session, but generally closed sessions will be limited to the board, a recording secretary and the superintendent if indicated. The board has discretion to nominate the board secretary or any board member to serve as recording secretary for the closed session.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 22.7; 279.24.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: October 12, 1993

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**EXEMPT MEETINGS**

Board meetings at which a quorum is not present, or gatherings of the board for purely ministerial or social purposes when there is no discussion of policy or no intent to avoid the purposes of the open meetings law, are exempt from the open meetings law requirements. Since gatherings of this type are exempt from the open meetings requirements, they can be held without public notice, be separate from an open meeting, be held without recording the gathering or taking minutes, and be held without a vote or motion. The board may also hold an exempt session for the following reasons, or as may be otherwise authorized by law:

1. Negotiating sessions, strategy meetings of public employers or employee organizations, mediation and the deliberative process of arbitration;
2. to discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of employees not covered by the collective bargaining law;
3. to conduct a private hearing relating to the recommended termination of a teacher's contract. The private hearing however, in the teacher's contract termination will be recorded verbatim by a court reporter; and
4. to conduct a private hearing relating to the termination of a probationary administrator's contract or to review the proposed decision of the administrative law judge regarding the termination of an administrator's contract.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.17; 21; 22.7; 279.15, .16.

Date of Adoption: September 11, 2023



## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the board will set aside a specific time for public comment.

### **Public Comment During Board Meetings**

Citizens wishing to address the board during public comment must notify the board secretary prior to the board meeting. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time during public comment. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the board may also do so at this time. The board however, will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation. Normally, speakers will be limited to 5 minutes with a total allotted time for public participation of 30 minutes. However, the board president may modify this time limit, if deemed appropriate or necessary.

Public comment is a time set aside for community input, but the board will not discuss or take any action on any matter during public comment.

Public comment shall be limited to regular board meetings and will not be routinely held during special board meetings.

### **Petitions to Place a Topic on the Agenda**

Individuals who wish for an item to be placed on the board agenda may submit a valid petition to the board. For a petition to be valid, it must be signed by at least 500 eligible electors of the district, or ten percent of the individuals who voted in the last school election, whichever number is lower.

Upon receiving a valid petition to the board to place a proposal on the next board agenda for public hearing, the board will place the proposal identified in the petition on the agenda of the next regular meeting, or a special meeting held within 30 days of receipt of the petition. The board will provide a sign-up sheet for all individuals who wish to speak on the proposal, and individuals will be called to speak in order of sign-up. The sign-up sheet will require each individual to list their legal name and mailing address. Each speaker will be limited to an amount of time established by the board president that is reasonable and necessary based on the number of speakers signed up. The same time limit will apply to all speakers on the proposal. Each individual will be limited to one opportunity to speak. The board maintains absolute discretion on whether or not to discuss or act on the public comments made on the proposal. If a petition is related to curriculum, the district maintains discretion to determine whether to stop teaching that curriculum until the board holds the public hearing to discuss the curriculum.

The board has a significant interest in maintaining the decorum of its meetings, and it is expected that members of the public and the board will address each other with civility. The orderly process of the board meeting will not be interfered with or disrupted by public comment. Only individuals recognized by the board president will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting. Defamatory comments may be subject to legal action.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 22; 279.8, 279.8B

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: September, 1991  
Date of Revision: December 12, 2016  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

The board recognizes situations may arise in the operation of the school district which are of concern to parents and other members of the school district community.

The board firmly believes concerns should be resolved at the lowest organizational level by those individuals closest to the concern. Whenever a complaint or concern is brought to the attention of the board it will be referred to the administration to be resolved. Prior to board action however, the following should be completed:

1. Matters should first be addressed to the teacher or employee.
2. Unsettled matters from (a) above or problems and questions about individual attendance centers should be addressed to the employee's building principal.
3. Unsettled matters from (b) above or problems and questions concerning the school district should be directed to the superintendent.
4. If a matter cannot be settled satisfactorily by the superintendent, it may then be brought to the board for consideration. To bring a concern, the individual shall notify the board president or board secretary in writing, who may bring it to the attention of the entire board.

Parents, guardians and community members of the district who have concerns about the district or the board may refer to the student handbook for additional guidance from the Iowa Department of Education.

It is within the discretion of the board to address complaints from the members of the school district community, and the board will only consider whether to address complaints if they are in writing, signed, and the complainant has complied with this policy. The board is not obligated to address a complaint and may defer to the decision of the superintendent. If the board elects not to address a complaint, the decision of the superintendent shall be final. If the board does elect to address a complaint, its decision shall be final.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8

Date of Adoption: September 11, 2023

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings may be held on school district matters at the discretion of the board. Public notice of a public hearing will be in the same manner as for a board meeting except that the notice will be given at least ten days before the hearing is to be held unless it is impossible or impractical to do so, or the law requires otherwise.

At public hearings, citizens of the district who register at the door will be allowed to speak on the issue for which the public hearing is being held. Others may be allowed to speak at the board's discretion. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks as brief as possible. Prior to the beginning of the hearing, speakers and spectators will be apprised of the rules of order to be followed regarding time limitations, questions, remarks and rebuttals. In no event will a speaker be allowed to take the time of another speaker.

The board will conduct public hearings in an orderly fashion. At the beginning of the hearing, statements, background materials and public hearing rules and procedures will be presented by the board president. The board president will recognize the speakers. A board member may ask questions of the speakers after receiving permission from the board president. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the board or the proceedings will be asked to leave.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 24.9; 26.12; 279.8, .10; 297.22.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RECORDS**

The board will keep and maintain permanent records of the board including, but not limited to, records of the minutes of board meetings and other required records of the board.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary to keep the minutes of the board meetings. The minutes of each board meeting will include, at a minimum, the following items: a record of the date, time, place, members present, action taken and the vote of each member, and the schedule of bills allowed will be attached. This information will be available within two weeks of the board meeting and forwarded to the newspaper designated as the official newspaper for publication. The information does not need to be published within two weeks. The schedule of bills allowed may be published on a once monthly basis in lieu of publication with the minutes. The permanent records of the board minutes may include more detail than is required for the publication of the minutes.

Minutes waiting approval at the next board meeting will be available for inspection at the central administration office after the board secretary transcribes the notes into typewritten material which has been proofread for errors and retyped.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 22; 279.8, .35, .36; 291.6, .7; 618.3.  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(1).

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: October 12, 1993  
Date of Revision: March 11, 1997  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

Participation in board member associations are beneficial to the board. The board will maintain an active membership in the Iowa Association of School Boards and in organizations the board determines will be of benefit to the board and the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.38.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: August 11, 2014

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

High achieving school boards work as a team to create high expectations for all students. Board learning is foundational to creating this solid governance structure focused on student learning for school boards. The board may participate in conferences sponsored by educational associations and agencies in addition to its own in-service programs and work sessions.

The board will work closely with the Iowa Association of School Boards' and encourage the board members to participate in qualifying learning opportunities, with the priority being the annual Iowa Association of School Boards Convention to achieve the Annual Board Award.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8, .38.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: April 11, 2000

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEMBER COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES**

As an elected public official, the board member is a public servant who serves without compensation. Board members will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Prior to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, the board member must submit a detailed receipt indicating the date, purpose and nature of the expense for each claim item. Failure to provide a detailed receipt will make the expense nonreimbursable. Personal expenses will be reimbursed by the board member to the school district no later than ten working days following the date of the expense. In exceptional circumstances, the board may allow a claim without proper receipt. Written documentation explaining the exceptional circumstances will be maintained as part of the school district's record of the claim.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary to compile the expenses of board members and bring them to the board for audit and approval in the same manner as other claims of the school district. It is the responsibility of the board to determine through the audit and approval process of the board whether the expenses incurred by a board member are actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 68B; 277.27; 279.7A, .8, .32.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023



## GIFTS TO BOARD MEMBERS

Board members may receive a gift on behalf of the school district. Board members will not, either directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or receive gift, series of gifts, or honorariums unless the donor does not meet the definition of "restricted donor" stated below or the gift or honorarium does not meet the definition of gift or honorarium stated below.

A "restricted donor" is defined as a person or other entity which:

- Is seeking to be or is a party to any one or any combination of sales, purchases, leases, or contracts to, from, or with the school district;
- Will be directly and substantially affected financially by the performance or nonperformance of the board member's official duty in a way that is greater than the effect on the public generally or on a substantial class of persons to which the person belongs as a member of a profession, occupation, industry, or region; or
- Is a lobbyist or a client of a lobbyist with respect to matters within the school district's jurisdiction.

A "gift" is the giving of anything of value in return for which something of equal or greater value is not given or received. However, "gift" does not include any of the following:

- Contributions to a candidate or a candidate's committee;
- Information material relevant to a board member's official function, such as books, pamphlets, reports, documents, periodicals, or other information that is recorded in a written, audio, or visual format;
- Anything received from a person related within the fourth degree by kinship or marriage, unless the donor is acting as an agent or intermediary for another person not so related;
- An inheritance;
- Anything available or distributed to the general public free of charge without regard to the official status of the board recipient;
- Items received from a charitable, professional, educational, or business organization to which the board member belongs as a dues paying member if the items are given to all members of the organization without regard to an individual member's status or positions held outside of the organization, and if the dues paid are not inconsequential when compared to the items received;
- Actual expenses of a board member for food, beverages, travel, and lodging for a meeting, which is given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting when the expenses relate directly to the day or days on which the board member has participation or presentation responsibilities;
- Plaques or items of negligible resale value given as recognition for public service;
- Non-monetary items with a value of less than three dollars that are received from any one donor during one calendar day;
- Items or services solicited or given to a state, national, or regional organization in which the state of Iowa or a school district is a member for purposes of a business or educational conference, seminar or other meeting, or items or services solicited by or given to state, national or regional government organizations whose memberships and officers are primarily composed of state or local government officials or employees for purposes of a business or educational conference, seminar or other meeting;

**GIFTS TO BOARD MEMBERS**

- Items or services received by members or representatives of members as part of a regularly scheduled event that is part of a business or educational conference, seminar or other meeting that is sponsored and directed by any state, national or regional government organization in which the state of Iowa or a political subdivision of the state of Iowa is a member or received at such an event by members or representatives of members of state, national, or regional government organizations whose memberships and officers are primarily composed of state or local government officials or employees;
- Funeral flowers or memorials to a church or nonprofit organization;
- Gifts which are given to a public official for the public official's wedding or twenty-fifth or fiftieth wedding anniversary;
- Payment of salary or expenses by a board member's employer or the firm in which the board member is a member for the cost of attending a meeting of a sub-unit of an agency when the board member whose expenses are being paid serves on a board, commission, committee, council or other sub-unit of the agency and the board member is not entitled to receive compensation or reimbursement of expenses from the school district; or
- Gifts other than food, beverages, travel, and lodging received by a board member which are received from a person who is a citizen of a country other than the United States and is given during a ceremonial presentation or as a result of a custom of the other country and is of personal value only to the board member.
- Actual registration costs for informational meetings or sessions which assist a public official or public employee in the performance of the person's official functions. The costs of food, drink, lodging, and travel are not "registration costs" under this paragraph. Meetings or sessions which a public official or public employee attends for personal or professional licensing purposes are not "informational meetings or sessions which assist a public official or public employee in the performance of the person's official functions" under this paragraph.

An "honorarium" is anything of value that is accepted by, or on behalf of, a board member as consideration for an appearance, speech or article. An honorarium does not include any of the following:

- Actual expenses of a board member for registration, food, beverages, travel, or lodging for a meeting, which is given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at a meeting when the expenses relate directly to the day or days on which the board member has participation or presentation responsibilities;
- A non-monetary gift or series of non-monetary gifts donated within thirty days to a public body, an educational or charitable organization or the department of general services; or
- A payment made to a board member for services rendered as part of a private business, trade, or profession in which the board member is engaged if the payment is commensurate with the actual services rendered and is not being made because of the person's status as a board member but, rather, because of some special expertise or other qualification.

It is the responsibility of each board member to know when it is appropriate to accept or reject gifts or an honorarium.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990  
Date of Revision: October 12, 1993  
Date of Revision: October 11, 1994  
Date of Revision: March 11, 1997  
Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

**SCHOOL BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT**

The superintendent is employed by the board as the chief executive officer of the board to manage the day-to-day operation of the district. The board shall set policy to guide the superintendent, but shall not be involved in the day-to-day operations. The superintendent shall work closely with the board, particularly the board president, to carry out and implement the policies of the board.

The superintendent shall advise the board, provide information to the board, offer alternative solutions, make recommendations, and do other such duties the board determines.

The superintendent shall attend all board meetings unless the superintendent has been excused by the board president.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023

## NEGOTIATIONS

The board shall bargain in good faith on mandatory subjects of collective bargaining. The board shall select a chief spokesperson who shall have the authority to represent the board in the phases of collective bargaining, including, but not limited to, reaching tentative agreement. Only the board has the authority to ratify the master labor agreements.

Upon appointment of the chief spokesman, negotiations between the certified bargaining unit and its members shall be directed to the board's chief spokesperson. Individual board members shall not be contacted directly by members of or representatives for the bargaining unit concerning issues relating to the negotiation process.

The board shall determine the composition of management's collective bargaining team. In determining these teams, the board shall consider the nature of the employee group, the individuals' familiarity with and expertise in the area represented by the employee group, administrative team input, and team consistency.

The board shall set the parameters, goals, and meet-and-confer process for negotiations. Strategy sessions may be held with the entire board to maintain open communications between the board, the meet-and-confer teams, and the spokesperson throughout the negotiations process.

Date of Adoption: April 25, 1990

Date of Revision: March 11, 1997

Date of Revision: September 11, 2023