

Berkeley USD

Board Bylaw

Governance Standards

BB 9005

Board Bylaws

The Governing Board believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the district. The Board also has major commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, employees, the state of California, laws pertaining to public education, and established policies of the district. To maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in district governance, Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The Board expects its members to work with each other, the Superintendent and district staff to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board member shall uphold the following governing principles:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
2. Value, support and advocate for public education (cf. 9010 - Public Statements)
3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community
4. Keep confidential matters confidential
5. Commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader and participate in professional development
6. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff
7. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals and that an individual Board member has no legal authority to direct the Superintendent on an individual basis. Refrain from making

statements of personal opinion that would be interpreted as having Board approval, either during Board meetings or out of meetings

8. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

Board members shall assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the Board shall have a unity of purpose and:

1. Keep the district focused on learning and achievement for all students

2. Communicate a common vision

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity

4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect

5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures and abide by and uphold the adopted policies of the Board regardless of whether the individual Board member voted for the adoption

6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance

7. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance

35160 Board authority to act in any manner not conflicting with law

35164 Actions by majority vote

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090 Financial interest in contract

1098 Disclosure of confidential information

1125-1129 Incompatible activities

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act
87300-87313 Conflict of interest code

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: April 20, 2005 Berkeley, California

revised: June 24, 2015