

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Role Of The Board

BB 9000

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education has been elected by the community to provide leadership and citizen oversight of the district. The Board shall ensure that the district is responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of the community.

The Board shall work with the Superintendent to fulfill its major responsibilities, which include:

1. Setting the direction for the district through a process that involves the community, parents/guardians, students, and staff and is focused on student learning and achievement

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

2. Establishing an effective and efficient organizational structure for the district by:

- a. Employing the Superintendent and setting policy for hiring of other personnel

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

(cf. 2120 - Superintendent Recruitment and Selection)

(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)

(cf. 4000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 4111 - Recruitment and Selection)

(cf. 4211 - Recruitment and Selection)

(cf. 4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

- b. Overseeing the development and adoption of policies

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

- c. Establishing academic expectations and adopting the curriculum and instructional materials

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

d. Establishing budget priorities and adopting the budget

(cf. 3000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

e. Providing safe, adequate facilities that support the district's instructional program

(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

f. Setting parameters for negotiations with employee organizations and ratifying collective bargaining agreements

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)

3. Providing support to the Superintendent and staff as they carry out the Board's direction by:

a. Establishing and adhering to standards of responsible governance

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

b. Making decisions and providing resources that support district priorities and goals

c. Upholding Board policies

d. Being knowledgeable about district programs and efforts in order to serve as effective spokespersons

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

4. Ensuring accountability to the public for the performance of the district's schools by:

a. Evaluating the Superintendent and setting policy for the evaluation of other personnel

(cf. 2140- Evaluation of the Superintendent)

(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)
(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/Supervision)

b. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies

c. Serving as a judicial (hearing) and appeals body in accordance with law, Board policies, and negotiated agreements

(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. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)
(cf. 4117.3 - Personnel Reduction)
(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)
(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)
(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

d. Monitoring student achievement and program effectiveness and requiring program changes as necessary

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)
(cf. 0520.3 - Title I Program Improvement Districts)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

e. Monitoring and adjusting district finances

(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)

f. Monitoring the collective bargaining process

5. Providing community leadership and advocacy on behalf of students, the district's educational program, and public education in order to build support within the local community and at the state and national levels

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)
(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)
(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)
(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)
(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 1700 - Relations between Private Industry and the Schools)
(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

The Board is authorized to establish and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. (Education Code 35160)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5304 Duties of governing board (re school district elections)
12400-12405 Authority to participate in federal programs
17565-17592 Board duties re property maintenance and control
33319.5 Implementation of authority of local agencies
35000 District name
35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules
35020-35046 Officers and agents
35100-35351 Governing boards, especially:
35160-35185 Powers and duties
35291 Rules

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance

Professional Governance Standards, November 2000

School Board Leadership: The Role and Function of California's School Boards, 1996

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

The Key Work of School Boards, 2000

WEB SITES

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

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Governance Standards

BB 9005

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education 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 and the Superintendent to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board member shall:

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. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior
5. Keep confidential matters confidential

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

8. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

Board members also 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. 0100 - Philosophy)

(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

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance

7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Code Of Ethics

BB 9005.1

Board Bylaws

This Code of Ethics expresses the personal ideals which the Board believes should guide each school Board member's activities.

As a member of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board, I will perform my duties in accordance with my oath of office. I am committed to serving the educational needs of the students in our schools. My primary responsibility is to provide high quality learning opportunities to each student in accord with our district Mission Statement.

As a Board Member:

1. I will hold myself to the highest standards of ethical conduct.
2. I will be responsible to all residents of the district and not solely to those who elected me nor solely to any organization to which I may belong, or which may have supported my election.
3. I will have a direct concern for my duties. I represent the authority and responsibility of government. This authority must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.
4. I recognize that my actions may affect the capability of district employees to practice their trade or profession and I will encourage their increasing competence and professional growth.
5. I will be aware of, and comply with, the Constitutions of State and Nation, the Education Code of the State of California, other laws pertaining to public education, and the established policies of the district.
6. I am obliged by law to participate in decisions pertaining to education in the district. As an elected representative of the people, I can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.
7. I have something to contribute to society, and to this district.
8. I consider my position on the Board as a public trust and will not use it for private advantage or personal gain.
9. I will remember at all times that, as an individual, I have no legal authority outside the

meetings of the Board, and conduct my relationships with staff, students, and local citizenry, and the media on that basis.

10. I will encourage ideas and opinions from the residents of the district and endeavor to incorporate community views into the deliberations and decisions of the Board.

11. I will devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions so as to be able to base decisions upon all available facts and vote in accordance with honest convictions, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.

12. I will remember that the basic functions of the Board are to establish the policies by which district schools are administered, implement those policies, and hold them accountable for the administration of the district.

13. I will promote and participate actively in a concerted program of timely exchange of information with all district residents, parents, employees and students.

14. I will make use of opportunities to enlarge my potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops, and training sessions made available by local, state, and national agencies.

15. I will work with my fellow Board Members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during vigorous debates of points at issue.

16. I will base my personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation, vote my honest conviction in every case unswayed by partisan bias, and abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.

17. I recognize that it is important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational programs of Santa Rosa City Schools.

18. I will recognize that deliberations of the Board in closed session are not mine to release or discuss in public without the prior approval of the Board by majority vote. (See Note Below)

19. I will keep informed about educational research and the actions and positions of regional, state, and national School Board groups.

20. I will strive to provide the most effective Board service of which I am capable, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Remedies For Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information

BB 9005.2

Board Bylaws

Government Code 1098 (SB 1536, Ch. 962, Statutes of 1987) has made it a misdemeanor for any public officer or employee to willfully and knowingly use or disclose for monetary gain any confidential information acquired in the course of his/her official duties. (Disclosures excepted from this prohibition are those made to law enforcement officials or to the joint legislative audit committee when reporting on improper governmental activities.)

The Board, administration, and staff shall maintain the confidentiality of all confidential records until such time as laws, state regulations, and/or bylaws of this district permit disclosure. Information and records pertaining to closed sessions; negotiations and student records are not subject to public disclosure under Government Code 6252-6260.

Any employee or Board member who willfully releases confidential/privileged information about students, staff, or any topic properly confined to a closed session shall be subject to disciplinary action. Confidential information includes any information relating to the Board's employer-employee strategies on matters in negotiation or matters to be placed in negotiation.

Disciplinary action, as deemed permissible and appropriate by the Board may include but not be limited to, injunctive relief to prevent the disclosure of confidential information, suspension from closed session, referral to the grand jury, suspension of any remuneration and/or benefits, elimination in the participation of district subsidies for future election filing fees, and private/public censure.

Any employee or Board member who willingly and for monetary gain uses or discloses confidential/privileged information as defined in Government Code 1098 is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Government Code 1098)

Any action by an employee that inadvertently or carelessly results in release of confidential/privileged information shall be recorded and the record shall be placed in the employee's personnel file. Depending on the circumstances, the Board may, if permissible, deny the employee, or Board member further access to any privileged information and shall take any steps necessary to prevent any further unauthorized release of such information.

(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 SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Public Statements

BB 9010

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the district, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding district issues, Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives to communicate its positions and to abide by established protocols.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or other designated representative.

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

(cf. 9121 - President)

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

When speaking for the district, the Board encourages its spokespersons to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.

Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54963)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

When speaking to community groups, members of the public, or the media, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board.

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for district students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)
(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 California Public Records Act

54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

54963 Confidential information in closed session

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Disclosure Of Confidential/Privileged Information

BB 9011

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of information acquired as part of a Board member's official duties. Confidential/privileged information shall be released only to the extent authorized by law.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

Disclosure of Closed Session Information

A Board member shall not disclose confidential information acquired during a closed session to a person not entitled to receive such information, unless a majority of the Board has authorized its disclosure. (Government Code 54963)

Confidential information means a communication made in a closed session that is specifically related to the basis for the Board to meet lawfully in closed session. (Government Code 54963)

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

The Board shall not take any action against any person for disclosing confidential information, nor shall the disclosure be considered a violation of the law or Board policy, when the person is: (Government Code 54963)

1. Making a confidential inquiry or complaint to a district attorney or grand jury concerning a perceived violation of law, including disclosing facts necessary to establish the illegality or potential illegality of a Board action that has been the subject of deliberation during a closed session
2. Expressing an opinion concerning the propriety or legality of Board action in closed session, including disclosure of the nature and extent of the illegal or potentially illegal action
3. Disclosing information that is not confidential

Other Disclosures

A Board member shall not disclose, for pecuniary gain, confidential information acquired in the course of his/her official duties. Confidential information includes information that is not a public record subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, information that by law may not be disclosed, or information that may have a material financial effect on the Board member. (Government Code 1098)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Disclosures excepted from this prohibition are those made to law enforcement officials or to the joint legislative audit committee when reporting on improper governmental activities. (Government Code 1098)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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

35146 Closed session

EVIDENCE CODE

1040 Privilege for official information

GOVERNMENT CODE

1098 Public officials and employees re confidential information

3549.1 Meeting and negotiating in public educational employment

6250-6270 Inspection of public records

54950-54963 Brown Act, especially:

54956.8 Open meeting laws

54956.9 Closed meeting for pending litigation

54957 Closed session; "employee" defined; exclusion of witnesses

54957.1 Subsequent public report and rollcall vote; employee matters in closed session

54957.5 Public records

54957.6 Closed session; representatives with employee organization

54957.7 Reasons for closed session

54963 Confidential information in closed session

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 231 (1997)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards, November 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership, 1996

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Board Member Electronic Communications

BB 9012

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education recognizes that electronic communication among Board members and between Board members, district administration, and members of the public is an efficient and convenient way to communicate and expedite the exchange of information and to help keep the community informed about the goals, programs, and achievements of the district and its schools. Board members shall exercise caution so as to ensure that electronic communications are not used as a means for the Board to deliberate outside of an agendaized Board meeting.

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

A majority of the Board shall not, outside of an authorized meeting, use a series of electronic communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Government Code 54952.2)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Examples of permissible electronic communications concerning district business include, but are not limited to, dissemination of Board meeting agendas and agenda packets, reports of activities from the Superintendent, and reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places.

Board members shall make every effort to ensure that their electronic communications conform to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication. A Board member may respond, as appropriate, to an electronic communication received from a member of the community and should make clear that his/her response does not necessarily reflect the views of the Board as a whole. Any complaint or request for information should be forwarded to the Superintendent in accordance with Board bylaws and protocols so that the issue may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process. As appropriate, communication received from the press shall be forwarded to the designated district spokesperson.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(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. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9121 - Board President
(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

In order to minimize the risk of improper disclosure, Board members shall avoid reference to confidential information and information acquired during closed session.

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Board members may use electronic communications to discuss matters other than district business with each other, regardless of the number of members participating in the discussion.

Like other writings concerning district business, a Board member's electronic communication may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35140 Time and place of meetings
35145 Public meetings
35145.5 Agenda; public participation; regulations
35147 Open meeting law exceptions and applications

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 State programs and activities, discrimination
54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:
54952.2 Meeting, defined
54953 Meetings to be open and public; attendance
54954.2 Agenda posting requirements, board actions

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2006

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies, 2003

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act, rev. 2007

WEB SITES

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

CSBA, Agenda Online:

<http://www.csba.org/Services/Services/GovernanceTechnology/AgendaOnline.aspx>

Institute for Local Government: <http://www.cacities.org/index.jsp?zone=ilsg>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Organization

BB 9100

Board Bylaws

Annual Organizational Meeting

The Board of Education shall hold an annual organizational meeting within the time limits prescribed by law. (Education Code 35143)

At this meeting the Board shall:

1. Elect a president and a clerk and/or vice president from its members
2. Appoint the Superintendent as secretary to the Board
3. Authorize signatures
4. Develop a schedule of regular meetings for the year
5. Develop a Board calendar for the year
6. Designate Board representatives

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

7. Designate Board representatives to serve on committees or commissions of the district, other public agencies, or organizations with which the district partners or collaborates

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

8. Review and/or consider resources that define and clarify the Board's governance and leadership roles and responsibilities including, but not limited to, governance standards, meeting protocols, Board rules and bylaws, and other Board development materials

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Election of Officers

The Board shall each year elect its entire slate of officers.

No Board member shall serve more than 2 consecutive year(s) in the same office.

(cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation)

The election of Board officers shall be conducted during an open session of the annual organizational meeting.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5017 Term of office

35143 Annual organizational meeting date, and notice

35145 Public meetings

GOVERNMENT CODE

54953 Meetings to be open and public; attendance

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 65 (1985)

59 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 619, 621-622 (1976)

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

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Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Terms Of Office

BB 9110

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education shall consist of 7 members whose terms shall be staggered so that as nearly as practicable, one half of the members shall be elected in each odd-numbered year.

The term of office for members elected in regular elections shall be four years, commencing on the second Wednesday in December next succeeding their election. (Education Code 5017)

Board member terms expire four years after their initial election on the second Wednesday in December following the election of new members. (Education Code 5000)

A member whose term has expired shall continue to discharge the duties of the office until his/her successor has qualified by taking the oath of office. (Government Code 1302, 1360; Education Code 5017)

(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)

(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

(cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation)

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5000-5033 Election of school district board members

35010 Control of district

35012 Board members; number, election and terms

35107 Eligibility

GOVERNMENT CODE

1302 Continuance in office until qualification of successor

1303 Exercising functions of office without having qualified

1360 Necessity of taking constitutional oath

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

President

BB 9121

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education shall elect a president from among its members to provide leadership on behalf of the Board and the educational community it serves.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9100 - Organization)

The president shall preside at all Board meetings. He/she shall:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time
2. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order
3. Enforce the Board's policies relating to the conduct of meetings and help ensure compliance with applicable requirements of the Brown Act
4. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference
5. Explain what the effect of a motion would be if it is not clear to every member
6. Restrict discussion to the question when a motion is before the Board
7. Rule on issues of parliamentary procedure
8. Put motions to a vote, and state clearly the results of the vote
9. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings, as the parliamentarian

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

The president shall perform other duties in accordance with law and Board policy including, but not limited to:

1. Signing all instruments, acts and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board
2. Consulting with the Superintendent or designee on the preparation of the Board's agendas

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

3. Working with the Superintendent to ensure that Board members have necessary materials and information

4. Subject to Board approval, appointing and dissolving all committees

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

5. Calling such meetings of the Board as he/she may deem necessary, giving notice as prescribed by law

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

6. Representing the district as governance spokesperson, in conjunction with the Superintendent

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

The president shall have the same rights as other members of the Board, including the right to move, second, discuss and vote on all questions before the Board.

(cf. 9123 - Clerk)

When the president resigns or is absent or disabled, the vice president shall perform the president's duties. When both the president and vice president are absent or disabled, the clerk shall perform the president's duties.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35022 President of the board

35143 Annual organizational meetings; dates and notice

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Board Presidents' Handbook, revised 2002

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

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Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Secretary

BB 9122

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education shall appoint the Superintendent to serve as secretary to the Board. The secretary to the Board shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate and complete record of all Board proceedings and shall:

1. Prepare, distribute and maintain the Board agenda

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

2. Record, distribute and maintain the Board minutes

(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)

3. Maintain Board records and documents

4. Conduct official correspondence for the Board

5. As directed by the Board, sign and execute official papers

6. Perform other duties as assigned by the Board

(cf. 2111 - Superintendent Governance Standards)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35025 Secretary and bookkeeper

35143 Annual organizational meetings; dates and notice

35250 Duty to keep certain records and reports

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Clerk

BB 9123

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education shall elect a clerk from its own membership at the annual organizational meeting. (Education Code 35143)

(cf. 9100 - Organization)

The duties of the clerk shall be to:

1. Certify or attest to actions taken by the Board when required
2. Maintain such other records or reports as required by law
3. Sign documents on behalf of the district as directed by the Board
4. Serve as presiding officer in the absence of the president and vice president

(cf. 9121 - President)

5. Notify Board members and members-elect of the date and time for the annual organizational meeting
6. Perform any other duties assigned by the Board

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 17593 Repair and supervision of property (duty of district clerk)
- 35038 Appointment of clerk by county superintendent of schools
- 35039 Dismissal of clerk
- 35121 Appointment of clerk in certain city and high school districts
- 35143 Annual organizational meetings
- 35250 Duty to keep certain records and reports
- 38113 Duty of clerk (re provision of school supplies)

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Attorney

BB 9124

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education recognizes the complex legal environment in which districts operate and desires reliable, high-quality legal advice at reasonable rates. In order to meet the district's legal needs, the Board may contract with county counsel, attorneys in private practice, or appoint legal counsel as a district employee or independent contractor. The Board also supports pursuing collaborative legal efforts with other agencies and districts as appropriate.

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

(cf. 3400 - Management of District Assets/Accounts)

(cf. 4312.1 - Contracts)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9260 - Legal Protection)

Duties of Legal Counsel

The district's legal counsel may: (Education Code 35041.5)

1. Render legal advice to the Board and the Superintendent or designee
2. Serve the Board and the Superintendent or designee in the preparation and conduct of district litigation and administrative proceedings
3. Render advice on school bond and tax increase measures and prepare the necessary forms for the voting of these measures
4. Perform other administrative duties as assigned by the Board and Superintendent or designee

Retaining Legal Counsel

In evaluating potential legal counsel, the Board and Superintendent shall consider the firm's or attorney's background, experience, and reputation in education law; experience advising or representing school districts in California; fees; and experience of attorneys at the firm who will provide legal services.

The Board and Superintendent shall annually evaluate the performance of the firm and/or attorneys providing legal services in such areas as efficiency and adequacy of advice; results obtained for the district; reasonableness of fees; and responsiveness to and interactions with the

Board, administration, and community. Upon a successful evaluation, the Board may renew the agreement with legal counsel.

The Board may also contract for temporary, specialized legal services without initiating an RFP when a majority of the Board determines that the unique demands of a particular issue or emergency situation so requires.

(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)

Contacting Legal Counsel

At his/her discretion, the Board president or Superintendent may confer with district legal counsel subject to any limits or parameters established by the Board. In addition, the Superintendent or Board president may contact district legal counsel to provide the Board with legal information or advice when so directed by a majority of the Board.

Individual Board members other than the Board president may not seek advice from district legal counsel on matters of district business unless so authorized by the Board President.

Any Board member may contract the district's legal services firm directly for any private legal question that may be related to Board service (e.g., conflict of interest).

Such questions and answers shall remain confidential between the two parties, except that:

1. Counsel shall inform the Board President that such contact took place.
2. If counsel believes the information is applicable to the entire Board, counsel shall distribute the information to all Board members.

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35041 Administrative adviser

35041.5 Legal counsel

35161 Powers and duties of governing board

35200-35214 Liabilities, especially:

35204 Contract with attorney in private practice

35205 Contract for legal services

GOVERNMENT CODE

814-895.8 Liability of public entities and public employees

995-996.6 Defense of public employees

26520 Legal services to school districts

53060 Special services and advice

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2007

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Selecting and Working with a School Attorney: A Guide for School Boards, 1997

WEB SITES

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

California Council of School Attorneys:

<http://www.csba.org/LegislationAndLegal/Legal/CaliforniaCouncilOfSchoolAttorneys.aspx>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

State Bar of California: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Board Committees

BB 9130

Board Bylaws

The Governing Board may establish a committee whenever it determines that such a committee would benefit the district by providing diverse viewpoints, specialized knowledge or expertise, or increased efficiency. Such committees may be subcommittees of the Board or committees that include members of the community, staff, or other stakeholder groups.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 2230 - Representative and Deliberative Groups)

(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

Upon establishing a committee, the Board shall clearly define the committee's purpose, any timeline for completion of assigned responsibilities, any stakeholder groups or individuals to be represented on the committee, length of time that committee members are expected to serve, and expectations for reporting to the Board and/or the Superintendent or designee. Unless specifically authorized by the Board to act on its behalf, the committee shall act in an advisory capacity.

Committee members shall, as appropriate, be recommended by the Superintendent or designee and appointed by the Board president.

(cf. 9121 - President)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide committee members with information and assistance necessary for the fulfillment of the committee's charges, and may serve as a non-voting advisor to the committee at the discretion of the Board.

Whenever so charged, committees may actively seek input and participation by parents/guardians, staff, community, and students and may consult with local public boards and agencies.

Any committee not required by law may be dissolved when its duties or term has been completed or whenever the Board deems necessary.

Committee Meetings

Unless otherwise exempted by law, Board-created committees shall provide public notice of their meetings and conduct meetings in accordance with Government Code 54950-54963 (the Brown Act).

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

However, Board subcommittees composed solely of less than a quorum of the members of the Board are not subject to open meeting laws unless they are standing committees. Standing committees of the Board, irrespective of membership, are those that have a continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule established by action of the Board. (Government Code 54952)

Standing committees with a continuing subject matter jurisdiction include, but are not limited to, those responsible for providing advice on budgets, audits, Board policy, contracts, and personnel matters at the Board's request.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3430 - Investing)
(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

When a majority of the members of the Board attend an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee, the Board members who are not members of the standing committee shall attend only as observers. (Government Code 54952.2)

Whenever any advisory or standing committee, including a committee not otherwise subject to the Brown Act, posts a meeting agenda at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, that meeting shall be considered as a regular meeting of the Board for purposes of the Brown Act and therefore must be held within district boundaries unless otherwise authorized by law. (Government Code 54954)

Committees may meet in a closed session during a regular or special meeting only for those purposes specifically authorized by law for closed sessions held by the Board.

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35024 Executive committee

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Brown Act, especially:

54952 Legislative body, definition

54952.2 Definition of meeting

54954 Time and place of regular meetings; special meetings; emergencies

54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body

54957 Closed session purposes

COURT DECISIONS

Frazer v. Dixon Unified School District, (1993) 18 Cal.App.4th 781

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 156 (1998)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 308 (1997)

79 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 69 (1996)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, 2009

WEB SITES

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

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Board Representatives

BB 9140

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education recognizes that effective performance of its community leadership responsibilities may require its participation in district or community committees on matters of concern to the district and its students. As needed, the Board may appoint any of its members to serve as its representative on a district committee or on a committee of another public agency or organization of which the Board or district is a member or to which the Board is invited to participate.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

When making such appointments, the Board shall clearly specify the authority and responsibilities of the representative(s), including, but not limited to, reporting back to the Board regarding committee activities and/or actions. Board representatives shall not exercise the authority of the Board without prior Board approval.

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

If a committee discusses a topic on which the Board has taken a position, the Board member shall express the position of the Board. When contributing his/her own ideas or opinions, the representative shall clearly indicate that he/she is expressing his/her individual idea or opinion.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

Board Representative to Elect Members of County Committee on School District Organization

As necessary, at its annual organizational meeting, the Board shall designate one Board member as its representative to elect members to the county committee on school district organization. (Education Code 35023)

(cf. 9100 - Organization)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

4000-4014 County committees on school district organization

35020-35046 School district officers and agents (power of governing board to employ or appoint)

35160 Authority of governing boards

GOVERNMENT CODE

54952.2 Meetings

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California Department of Education District Organization Handbook, 2010

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Student Board Members

BB 9150

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education believes it is important to seek out and consider students' ideas, viewpoints and reactions to the educational program. In order to provide student input and involvement, the Board shall include one student Board member selected in accordance with procedures approved by the Board.

The term of the student Board member shall be one calendar year, commencing on July 1. Student Board members shall have the right to attend all Board meetings except closed sessions. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board members shall be seated with regular Board members and be recognized at meetings as full members. They may participate in questioning witnesses and discussing issues and shall receive all materials presented to Board members except those related to closed sessions. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board members may be reimbursed for mileage but shall not receive compensation for attendance at Board meetings. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board member(s) may cast preferential votes on all matters except those subject to closed session discussion. Preferential votes shall be cast prior to the official Board vote and shall not affect the final numerical outcome of a vote. Preferential votes shall be recorded in the Board meeting minutes. (Education Code 35012)

Eligibility

Any student in good standing enrolled in a high school of the district who exhibits qualities of leadership and demonstrates a desire to represent the interests of all students is eligible to be selected a student representative to the Board.

Rotation

Student representative to the Board shall be selected by rotation among Elsie Allen, Maria Carrillo, Montgomery, Piner, Ridgway, and Santa Rosa High Schools.

Selection

The current student representative shall have the responsibility for setting in motion the selection process for the succeeding student representative. A student committee comprised of Student

Body Presidents, Ridgway High School representative, the current student representative to the Board, the Principal and the Director of Secondary Education shall choose the succeeding representative to the Board. The selection process shall be completed in time for presentation of the new Student Board Member to the Board by the first meeting in June.

Student Board Member shall be seated at the first meeting following the end of the school year.
Removal from Office

The Board shall declare a vacant position for any Student Board Member on the happening of any of the following events before the expiration of the term:

1. Death of the student
2. Resignation
3. Failure to attend regularly scheduled Board meetings from September 1 to June 30 for a period of three consecutive months, except when prevented by illness.
4. Disciplinary action taken against the student representative, such as expulsion or suspension.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33000.5 Appointment of student members to State Board of Education

35012 Board members; number, election and terms; pupil members

GOVERNMENT CODE

3540-3549.3 Meeting and Negotiating in Public Educational Employment

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: July 23, 2008 Santa Rosa, California

revised: April 12, 2017

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Limits Of Board Member Authority

BB 9200

Board Bylaws

The Board of Education recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the district 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.

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

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school 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 district 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. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)
- (cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

A Board member whose child is attending a district school should be aware of his/her role as a Board member when interacting with district employees about his/her child. Because his/her position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of school 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: Boardsmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Board Of Education Elections

BB 9220

Board Bylaws

Any person is eligible to be a member of the Governing Board, without further qualifications, if he/she is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting, or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or be a Board member except when he/she has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

A district employee elected to the Board shall resign his/her employment before being sworn in or shall have his/her employment automatically terminated upon being sworn into office. (Education Code 35107)

(cf. 9224 - Oath of Affirmation)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

To reduce costs associated with conducting elections, the Board may consolidate Board elections with the local municipal or statewide primary or general election. Board election procedures shall be conducted in accordance with state and federal law.

(cf. 9110 - Terms of Office)

Electing Board Members

Board members may reside anywhere within the district's boundaries and shall be elected by all voters in the district.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Campaign Conduct

In order to help protect the public's trust in the electoral process as well as the public's confidence in the Board and district, the Board encourages all candidates to sign and adhere to the principles in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices pursuant to Elections Code 20440.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

Statement of Qualifications

In order to help defray the costs of campaigning for the Board, the district shall pay the cost of printing, handling, translating, and mailing candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 200 words. (Elections Code 13307)

Tie Votes in Board Member Elections

Whenever a tie makes it impossible to determine which of two or more candidates has been elected to the Board, the Board shall immediately notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or their representatives should appear before the Board. The Board at that time shall determine the winner by lot. (Education Code 5016)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 1000 Composition, and trustee area, county board of education
- 1006 Qualifications for holding office, county board of education
- 5000-5033 Elections
- 5220-5231 Elections
- 5300-5304 General provisions (conduct of elections)
- 5320-5329 Order and call of elections
- 5340-5345 Consolidation of elections
- 5360-5363 Election notice
- 5380 Compensation (of election officer)
- 5390 Qualifications of voters
- 5420-5426 Cost of elections
- 5440-5442 Miscellaneous provisions
- 7054 Use of district property
- 35107 Eligibility; school district employees
- 35177 Campaign expenditures or contributions
- 35239 Compensation of governing board member of districts with less than 70 ADA

ELECTIONS CODE

- 20 Public office eligibility
- 1302 Local elections, school district election
- 2201 Grounds for cancellation
- 4000-4004 Elections conducted wholly by mail
- 10400-10418 Consolidation of elections
- 10509 Notice of election by secretary
- 10600-10604 School district elections
- 13307 Candidate's statement
- 13309 Candidate's statement, indigence

14025-14032 California Voting Rights Act

20440 Code of Fair Campaign Practices

GOVERNMENT CODE

1021 Conviction of crime

1097 Illegal participation in public contract

12940 Nondiscrimination, Fair Employment and Housing Act

81000-91014 Political Reform Act

PENAL CODE

68 Bribes

74 Acceptance of gratuity

424 Embezzlement and falsification of accounts by public officers

661 Removal for neglect or violation of official duty

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 2, Section 2 Voters, qualifications

Article 7, Section 7 Conflicting offices

Article 7, Section 8 Disqualification from office

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1973-1973aa-6 Voting Rights Act

COURT DECISIONS

Rey v. Madera Unified School District, (2012) 138 Cal. Rptr. 3d 192

Randall v. Sorrell, (2006) 126 S.Ct. 2479

Sanchez v. City of Modesto, (2006) 51 Cal.Rptr.3d 821

Dusch v. Davis, (1967) 387 U.S. 112

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 49 (2002)

83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 181 (2000)

81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 98 (1998)

69 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 290 (1986)

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

California Secretary of State's Office: <http://www.ss.ca.gov>

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

Institute for Local Self Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: May 10, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Resignation

BB 9222

Board Bylaws

A member of the Board of Education who wishes to resign from the Board shall file a written resignation with the County Superintendent of Schools. (Education Code 5090)

The resigning Board member shall also notify the Board and give a copy of his/her written resignation to the Board secretary.

The resignation shall become effective when filed with the County Superintendent, except when a deferred effective date is specified in the resignation. A Board member may not defer the effective date of his/her resignation for more than 60 days after he/she files the resignation with the County Superintendent. (Education Code 5090, 5091)

Once filed, a written resignation, whether specifying a deferred effective date or otherwise, shall be irrevocable. (Education Code 5090)

A Board member who tenders his/her resignation with a deferred effective date shall, until the effective date of the resignation, continue to exercise all the powers of the office, except that he/she shall not have the right to vote for his/her successor in an action taken by the Board to make a provisional appointment. (Education Code 5091, 35178)
(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

A Board member who resigns shall file, within 30 days of leaving office, a revised Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 covering the period of time between the closing date of the last statement required to be filed and the date he/she leaves office. (Government Code 87302, 87500)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5090-5095 Vacancies on the board

35178 Resignation with deferred effective date

GOVERNMENT CODE

1770 Vacancy on the board

87300-87313 Conflict of interest code

87500 Statement of economic interests

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Filling a Board Vacancy, rev. December 2010

WEB SITES

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

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Filling Vacancies

BB 9223

Board Bylaws

Events Causing a Vacancy

A vacancy on the Board of Education may occur for any of the following events:

1. The death of an incumbent (Government Code 1770)
2. The adjudication pursuant to a quo warranto proceeding declaring that an incumbent is physically or mentally incapacitated due to disease, illness, or accident and that there is reasonable cause to believe that the incumbent will not be able to perform the duties of his/her office for the remainder of his/her term (Government Code 1770)
3. A Board member's resignation (Government Code 1770)

A vacancy resulting from resignation occurs when the written resignation is filed with the County Superintendent of Schools having jurisdiction over the district, except where a deferred effective date is specified in the resignation so filed, in which case the resignation shall become operative on that date. A Board member may not defer the effective date of his/her resignation for more than 60 days after he/she files the resignation with the County Superintendent. Upon being filed with the County Superintendent, a written resignation, whether specifying a deferred effective date or otherwise, shall be irrevocable. (Education Code 5090, 5091)

4. A Board member's removal from office, including by recall (Elections Code 11384; Government Code 1770)
5. A Board member's ceasing to be a resident of the district (Government Code 1770)

A vacancy on the Board also occurs when a Board member ceases to inhabit the trustee area which he/she represents on the Board. (58 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 888 (1975))

6. A Board member's absence from the state for more than 60 days, except in the following situations: (Government Code 1064, 1770)
 - a. Upon district business with the approval of the Board
 - b. With the consent of the Board for an additional period not to exceed a total absence of 90 days

In the case of illness or other urgent necessity, and upon a proper showing thereof, the time limited for absence from the state may be extended by the Board.

c. For federal military deployment, not to exceed an absence of a total of six months, as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the California National Guard

If the absence of the Board member for this purpose exceeds six months, the Board may approve an additional six-month absence upon a showing that there is a reasonable expectation that the member will return within the second six-month period, and the Board may appoint an interim member to serve in his/her absence. If two or more members of the Board are absent by reason of these circumstances, and those absences result in the inability to establish a quorum at a regular meeting, the Board may immediately appoint one or more interim members as necessary to enable the Board to conduct business and discharge its responsibilities. The term of an interim member appointed in these circumstances shall not extend beyond the return of the absent Board member or beyond the next regularly scheduled election for that office, whichever occurs first.

7. A Board member's ceasing to discharge the duties of his/her office for the period of three consecutive months, except when prevented by illness or when absent from the state with the permission required by law. The maximum length of sick leave granted to a Board member is limited to the length of their elected or appointed term of office.

(Government Code 1770)

8. A Board member's conviction of a felony or any offense involving a violation of his/her official duties or conviction of a designated crime resulting in a forfeiture of office

(Government Code 1770, 3000-3003)

9. A Board member's refusal or neglect to file his/her required oath or bond within the time prescribed (Government Code 1770)

(cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation)

10. The decision of a competent tribunal declaring void a Board member's election or appointment (Government Code 1770)

11. A Board member's commitment to a hospital or sanitarium as a drug addict, dipsomaniac, inebriate, or stimulant addict by a court of competent jurisdiction, in which case the office shall not be deemed vacant until the order of commitment has become final (Government Code 1770)

12. A "failure to elect" in which no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have filed to run for a Board seat(s) (Education Code 5090, 5326, 5328)

Timelines for Filling a Vacancy

When a vacancy occurs, the Board shall take the following action, as appropriate:

1. When a vacancy occurs within four months of the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall take no action. (Education Code 5093)

2. When a vacancy occurs longer than four months before the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy or the filing of the member's deferred resignation, make a provisional appointment, unless a special election is mandated as described in item #3 below. (Education Code 5091, 5093)

3. When a vacancy occurs from six months to 130 days before a regularly scheduled Board election at which the position is not scheduled to be filled, a special election to fill the position shall be consolidated with the regular election. The person so elected shall take office at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the certification of the election and shall serve only until the end of the term of the position which he/she was elected to fill. (Education Code 5093)

Eligibility

In order to be appointed or elected to fill a vacancy on the Board, a person must meet the eligibility requirements specified in Education Code 35107.

(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)

Provisional Appointments

When authorized by law to make a provisional appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board, the Board shall advertise in the local media to solicit candidate applications or nominations. A committee consisting of less than a quorum of the Board shall ensure that applicants are eligible for Board membership and announce the names of the eligible candidates. The Board shall interview the candidates at a public meeting, accept oral or written public input, and select the provisional appointee by a majority vote.

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

Within 10 days after the appointment is made, the Board shall post notices of the actual vacancy, or the filing of a deferred resignation, and the provisional appointment. The notice shall be published in the local newspaper pursuant to Government Code 6061 and posted in at least three public places within the district. (Education Code 5092)

The notice shall contain: (Education Code 5092)

1. The date of the occurrence of the vacancy or the date of the filing of, and the effective date of, the resignation
2. The full name of the appointee
3. The date of appointment
4. A statement notifying the voters that unless a petition calling for a special election pursuant to Education Code 5091 is filed in the office of the County Superintendent within 30 days of the provisional appointment, it shall become an effective appointment

The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district Board members and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a Board member upon appointment. (Education Code 5091)

Appointment Due to Failure to Elect

When a vacancy occurs because no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have been nominated (i.e., a failure to elect) and a district election will not be held, the Board shall appoint a qualified person to the office. This appointment shall be made at a meeting prior to the day fixed for the election and the appointee shall be seated at the organizational meeting as if elected at the district election. (Education Code 5328)

(cf. 9100 - Organization)

When an appointment is being made because of a failure to elect, the district shall publish a notice once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the district, or if no such newspaper exists, in a newspaper having general circulation within the district. This notice shall state that the Board intends to make an appointment and shall inform persons of the procedure available for applying for the appointment. (Education Code 5328.5)

The procedure for selecting and interviewing candidates shall be the same as the procedures for "Provisional Appointments," as specified above.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5000-5033 Elections
5090-5095 Vacancies
5200-5208 Districts governed by boards of education
5300-5304 Elections
5320-5329 Order and call of election
5340-5345 Consolidation of elections
5360-5363 Election notice
5420-5426 Cost of elections
5440-5442 Miscellaneous provisions, elections
35107 Eligibility of board members
35178 Resignation with deferred effective date

ELECTIONS CODE

10600-10604 School district elections
11381-11386 Candidates for recall

GOVERNMENT CODE

1064 Absence from state
1770 Vacancies: definition
3000-3003 Forfeiture of office
3060-3075 Removal other than by impeachment
6061 One time notice
54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act

PENAL CODE

88 Bribery, forfeiture from office

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

704 Military medals or decorations

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

58 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 888 (1975)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Filling a Board Vacancy, rev. December 2010

WEB SITES

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

California State Attorney General's Office, Quo Warranto Applications:

http://ag.ca.gov/opinions/quo_warranto.php

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Oath Or Affirmation

BB 9224

Board Bylaws

Prior to entering upon the duties of their office, all Board of Education members shall take the oath or affirmation required by law. (California Constitution, Article 20, Section 3; Government Code 1360)

(cf. 4112.3/4212.3/4312.3 - Oath or Affirmation)

The oath may be administered and certified by a Board member, secretary or assistant secretary to the Board, Superintendent, deputy or assistant superintendent, principal, or County Superintendent of Schools or any other person authorized in Education Code 60.

The executed oath shall be filed with the County Clerk. (Government Code 1363)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

60 Persons authorized to administer and certify oaths

GOVERNMENT CODE

1303 Misdemeanor for failure to take oath

1360-1369 Oath of office

3100-3109 Oath or affirmation of allegiance

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 20, Section 3 Oath of office

COURT DECISIONS

Chilton v. Contra Costa Community College District (1976) 55 Cal. App. 3d 544

Vogel v. County of Los Angeles (1967) 68 Cal. 2d 18, 22

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Orientation

BB 9230

Board Bylaws

Board Candidate Orientation

The Board of Education desires to provide Board candidates with orientation that will enable them to understand the responsibilities and expectations of Board membership. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with general information about school programs, district operations, and Board responsibilities. He/she may also provide candidates with information about the election process, including, but not limited to, information about campaign conduct and ballot statement information.

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The Board encourages all candidates to attend public Board meetings during the period of their candidacy. Candidates shall have the same access as members of the public to district staff and information.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

New Board Member Orientation

The Board shall convene a meeting to provide an orientation and information to incoming Board members to assist them in understanding the Board's functions, policies, procedures, protocols, and agreed-upon standards of conduct. Incoming Board members shall receive the district's policy manual and other materials related to the district and Board member responsibilities.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

Upon their election, incoming Board members shall be provided a copy of the Brown Act and informed that, pursuant to Government Code 54952.1, they must conform to the Act's requirements as if they had already assumed office.

The Superintendent may provide incoming Board members with additional background and information regarding the district's vision and goals, operations, and current challenges in areas that include, but are not limited to, student achievement, curriculum, finance, facilities, policy, human resources, and collective bargaining.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

Incoming members are encouraged to attend Board meetings and review agenda materials available to the public in order to become familiar with current issues facing the district. Incoming members also may, at district expense and with approval of the Board, attend workshops and conferences relevant to their individual needs or to the needs of the Board as a whole or the district.

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshops

33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses; board member or member-elect

ELECTIONS CODE

13307 Candidate's statement

20440 Code of Fair Campaign Practices

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body

54952.7 Copies of Brown Act to board members

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

School Board Leadership, 2007

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2007

Guide to Effective Meetings, 2007

Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership, 1996

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Becoming a Better Board Member: A Guide to Effective School Board Service, 2006

WEB SITES

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

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Board Training

BB 9240

Board Bylaws

The Governing Board believes that the Board's ability to effectively and responsibly govern the district is essential to promoting student achievement, building positive community relations, and protecting the public interest in district schools. Board members shall be provided sufficient opportunities for professional development that helps them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education, and develop boardmanship skills.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

The Board and/or the Superintendent or designee shall provide an orientation to newly elected or appointed Board members which includes comprehensive information regarding Board roles, policies, and procedures and the district's vision and goals, operations, and current challenges. Throughout their first term, Board members shall continue to participate in additional educational opportunities designed to assist them in understanding the principles of effective governance, including, but not limited to, information on school finance and budgets, student achievement and assessment, labor relations, community relations, program evaluation, open meeting laws (the Brown Act), conflict of interest laws, and other topics necessary to govern effectively and in compliance with law.

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

All Board members are encouraged to continuously participate in advanced training offered by the California School Boards Association in order to reinforce boardmanship skills and build knowledge related to key education issues. Such activities may include online courses, webinars, webcasts, and in-person attendance at workshops and conferences. In addition, workshops and consultations may be held within the district on issues that involve the entire governance team.

Funds for board training shall be budgeted annually for the Board and each Board member. In selecting appropriate activities, the Board and/or individual Board members shall consider activities that are aligned with the district's vision and goals and the needs of the Board or individual member to obtain specific knowledge and skills. The Board shall annually develop a board training calendar in order to schedule and track board training activities and to schedule opportunities for Board members to report on the activities in which they participated.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits)

Board members may attend a conference or similar public gathering with other Board members and/or with the Superintendent or designee in order to develop common knowledge and understanding of an issue or engage in team-building exercises. In such cases, a majority of the Board members shall not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specified nature that is within the district's jurisdiction, so as not to violate the Brown Act open meeting laws pursuant to Government Code 54952.2.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Board members shall report to the Board, orally or in writing, on the board training activities they attend, for the purpose of sharing the acquired knowledge or skills with the full Board and enlarging the benefit of the activity to the Board and district.

Legal Reference:

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.2 Meeting

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards for School Boards

WEB SITES

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

California County Boards of Education: <http://www.theccbe.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California

Santa Rosa City Schools

Board Bylaw

Remuneration, Reimbursement And Other Benefits

BB 9250

Board Bylaws

Compensation

Each member of the Board of Education may receive a monthly compensation of \$400.00.
(Education Code 35120)

On an annual basis, the Board may increase the compensation of Board members beyond the limit delineated in Education Code 35120 in an amount not to exceed five percent based on the present monthly rate of compensation. (Education Code 35120)

Board members are not required to accept payment for meetings attended.

Any member who does not attend all Board meetings during the month is eligible to receive only a percentage of the monthly compensation equal to the percentage of meetings he/she attended, unless otherwise authorized by the Board in accordance with law. (Education Code 35120)

A member may be compensated for meetings he/she missed when the Board, by resolution, finds that he/she was performing designated services for the district at the time of the meeting or that he/she was absent because of illness, jury duty, or a hardship deemed acceptable by the Board.
(Education Code 35120)

Student Board members shall receive no compensation for meetings attended. (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9150 - Student Board Members)

Whenever a quorum of Board members serves as another legislative body which will meet simultaneously or in serial order to a Board meeting, the Board clerk or a member of the Board shall verbally announce the amount of any additional compensation or stipend that each member will be entitled to receive as a result of convening the simultaneous or serial meeting.
(Government Code 54952.3)

Reimbursement of Expenses

Board members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred when performing authorized services for the district. Expenses for travel, telephone, business meals, or other authorized purposes shall be in accordance with policies established for district personnel and at the same rate of reimbursement.

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)
(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)
(cf. 3513.1 - Cellular Phone Reimbursement)

Board members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when performing services directed by the Board. (Education Code 35044)

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

Authorized purposes may include, but are not limited to, attendance at educational seminars or conferences designed to improve Board members' skills and knowledge; participation in regional, state, or national organizations whose activities affect the district's interests; attendance at district or community events; and meetings with state or federal officials on issues of community concern.

Personal expenses shall be the responsibility of individual Board members. Personal expenses include, but are not limited to, the personal portion of any trip, tips or gratuities, alcohol, entertainment, laundry, expenses of any family member who is accompanying the Board member on district-related business, personal use of an automobile, and personal losses and traffic violation fees incurred while on district business.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved by the Superintendent or designee before the expense is incurred.

Board members may use district-issued credit cards while on official district business and consistent with the limits established for district personnel. Personal expenses shall not be charged on a district-issued credit card, even if the Board member intends to subsequently reimburse the district for the personal charges.

Health and Welfare Benefits for Current Board Members

Board members may participate in the health and welfare benefits program provided for district employees.

(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)

Health and welfare benefits for Board members shall be no greater than that received by the district's nonsafety employees with the most generous schedule of benefits. (Government Code 53208.5)

The district shall pay the premiums required for Board members electing to participate in the district health and welfare benefits program to the same extent that it pays for district employees.

Health and welfare benefits provided to Board members shall be extended at the same level to their spouse/registered domestic partner and to their eligible dependent children as specified in law and the health plan.

Health and Welfare Benefits for Former Board Members

Former Board members may participate in the health and welfare benefits program provided for district employees under the conditions specified below.

Health and welfare benefits for former Board members shall be no greater than those received by district nonsafety employees with the most generous schedule of benefits. (Government Code 53208.5)

The district shall pay the premiums for health and welfare benefits of any former Board member who served in office after January 1, 1981, began his/her term before January 1, 1995, and has served for 12 or more years. (Government Code 53201)

Any other former Board member who served at least one term may participate in the health and welfare benefits program at his/her own expense if coverage is in effect at the time he/she leaves office. (Government Code 53201)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33050-33053 General waiver authority
33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses for attendance at workshops
35012 Board members; number, election and term
35044 Payment of traveling expenses of representatives of board
35120 Compensation for services as member of governing board
35172 Promotional activities
44038 Cash deposits for transportation purchased on credit

FAMILY CODE

297-297.5 Rights, protections and benefits under law; registered domestic partners

GOVERNMENT CODE

8314 Use of public resources
20322 Elective officers; election to become member
20420-20445 Membership in Public Employees' Retirement System; definition of safety employees
53200-53209 Group insurance
54952.3 Simultaneous or serial meetings; announcement of compensation

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1373 Health services plan, coverage for dependent children

INSURANCE CODE

10277-10278 Group and individual health insurance, coverage for dependent children

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 26

403 Tax-sheltered annuities

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

18011 Right to maintain existing health coverage

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 26

1.403(b)-2 Tax-sheltered annuities, definition of employee

COURT DECISIONS

Thorning v. Hollister School District, (1992) 11 Cal.App.4th 1598

Board of Education of the Palo Alto Unified School District v. Superior Court of Santa Clara County, (1979) 93 Cal.App.3d 578

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

91 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 37 (2008)

83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 124 (2000)

Management Resources:

INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Sample Expense and Use of Public Resources Policy Statement, January 2006

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plans (403(b) Plans) for Employees of Public Schools and Certain Tax-Exempt Organizations, Publication 571, rev. February 2013

WEB SITES

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

Institute for Local Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

Internal Revenue Service: <http://www.irs.gov>

Public Employees' Retirement System: <http://www.calpers.ca.gov>

Bylaw SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

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