

Board ~~Development~~ Training

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.

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.

All Board members are encouraged to continuously participate in advanced training offered by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) 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.

The district shall pay for and/or reimburse reasonable expenses associated with:

- Board members attending the annual CSBA conference;
- Board leadership attending the annual California Labor Management Initiative (CA LMI) conference; and
- Three (3) Board members attending the annual California Bilingual Educators (CABE) conference.

Additionally, the district will allot each board member up to \$1,500 per school year to participate in other educational opportunities that help them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education, and develop boardmanship skills.

The District shall not pay for nor reimburse the expenses associated with Board members' guests attending these educational opportunities.

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.

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.

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.

~~Citizens elected to the Board of Education are entrusted with the responsibility of governing district schools. The Board recognizes that its members need training that helps them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education, and develop boardmanship skills.~~

~~All Board members may attend conferences for the purpose of Board development. Board business shall not be discussed at conferences.~~

~~Board members shall report to the Board, orally or in writing, as soon as possible on the inservice activities they attend.~~

~~Funds for Board development shall be budgeted annually for each Board member.~~

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 MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
adopted: June 25, 2009 Santa Monica, California**