

## ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In this series of the board policy manual, the board defines its role in the governance of the school district and how it will carry out that role in the school district.

The ultimate goal of the board is to achieve the educational philosophy of the school district. As school officials elected by the members of the school district community, the board shall strive to represent the needs and wishes of the members of the school district community in its deliberations and actions.

While the board shall be aware of the desires of the school district community, the needs of the students in the New Hampton Community School District shall be considered above others. The board strives to meet the needs of the students through evaluation of the financial and educational benefits of the various alternatives available to the board and the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A; 279.8; 280.12 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.1(2), 12.3(3).

Cross Reference: 101 Educational Philosophy of the School District  
105 Long-Range Needs Assessment  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The New Hampton Community School District board is authorized by and derives its organization from Iowa law. The board shall consist of five board members. One board member shall be elected by at large method and four by director district.

The board is organized for the purpose of setting policy and providing general direction for the school district. The board shall hold its organizational meeting each year on the first Monday following the annual school board directors' election. The retiring board shall transfer materials, including the board policy manual, and responsibility to the new board.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 274.2; 275.23A; 277.23, .28, .31; 279.1, .5, .7, .8, .33 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Cross Reference: 202 Board of Directors Members  
206.1 President  
206.2 Vice President  
211 Board of Directors' Meetings

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of the New Hampton Community School District, acting on behalf of the school district, shall have jurisdiction over school matters within the territory of the school district.

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

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

Legal Reference:     Board of Directors of Ind. School Dist. of Waterloo v. Green, 259 Iowa 1260, 147 N.W.2d 854 (1967).  
Iowa Code §§ 28E; 274.1-.2; 279.8 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.1(2).  
1990 Op. Att'y Gen. 66.

Cross Reference:     210     Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board is authorized to govern the school district which it oversees. As the governing board of the school district, the board has three duties to perform: legislative duty, executive duty and evaluative duty.

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 274.1; 279.1, .8, .20; 280.12 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Cross Reference: 101 Educational Philosophy of the School District  
105 Long-Range Needs Assessment  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures  
600 Goals and Objectives of the Education Program

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ELECTIONS

The annual school election takes place on the second Tuesday in September. Each annual school election shall be used to elect at least one citizen to the board to maintain a 5 member board and to address other questions that are submitted to the voters.

Citizens of the school district community seeking a seat on the board must file their nomination papers with the board secretary, or the board secretary's designee, between sixty-four and forty days before the school election unless otherwise directed.

If a vacancy occurs on the board it may be filled by appointment within 30 days of the vacancy. If the board does not fill the vacancy by appointment, the board secretary shall call a special election to fill the vacancy. Candidates for a seat created by a vacancy must file their nomination papers 25 days before the special election.

It shall be the responsibility of the county commissioner of elections to conduct school elections.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 39; 45; 47-53; 56-57; 63, 69; 274.7; 277; 278.1, 279.7 (2005).

Cross Reference: 202 Board of Directors Members  
203 Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## QUALIFICATIONS

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 63; 68B; 277.4, .27; 279.7A (2005).

Cross Reference: 201 Board of Directors' Elections  
202.4 Vacancies  
203 Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## OATH OF OFFICE

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 277.28; 279.1, .6 (2005).

Cross Reference: 200.2 Organization of the Board of Directors  
201 Board of Directors' Elections  
202 Board of Directors Members  
204 Code of Ethics  
206 Board of Directors' Officers

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## TERM OF OFFICE

Board members elected for a full term at a regularly scheduled school election in September serve for three years. Board members appointed to fill a vacant position will serve until the next scheduled school election. A board member elected to fill a vacancy will serve out the unexpired term.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 69.12; 274.7; 279.6-.7 (2005).

Cross Reference: 201 Board of Directors' Elections  
202 Board of Directors Members

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997



## VACANCIES

A vacancy occurs when a board member resigns forfeits or otherwise leaves the office. A vacancy also includes, but is not limited to, the following: failure to be properly elected, failure to qualify within the time fixed by law, failure to reside in the school district or director district, a court order declaring the seat vacant, conviction of a felony, three violations of the open meetings law, or conviction of a public offense in violation of the oath of office.

If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a term of office, the vacancy shall be filled by board appointment within 30 days of the vacancy. The newly-appointed board member shall hold the position until the next scheduled school election.

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

Legal Reference: Good v. Crouch, 397 N.W.2d 757 (Iowa 1986).  
Board of Directors of Grimes Independent School Dist. v. County Board of Public Instruction of Polk Co., 257 Iowa 106, 131 N.W.2d 802 (1965).  
Board of Directors of Menlo Consol. School Dist. v. Blakesburg, 240 Iowa 910, 36 N.W.2d 751 (1949).  
 Iowa Code §§ 21.6(3) (d); 69; 277.29-.30; 279.6-.7 (2005).  
 1944 Op. Att'y Gen. 39.

Cross Reference: 201 Board of Directors' Elections  
 202 Board of Directors Members

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITY

School districts are governed by an elected board of directors of the school corporation. The board operates as a corporate body, and only the board may make decisions regarding the education program and operations of the school district and to take action affecting the school district.

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

It shall be the responsibility of each board member and the superintendent to educate the public, the employees and the students of the limits of the board member's authority.

Legal Reference:     School Dist. of Soldier Tp., Crawford Co. v. Moeller, 247 Iowa 239, 73 N.W.2d 43 (1955).  
                              Beers v. Lasher, 209 Iowa 1158, 229 N.W. 821 (1930).  
                              Andrew v. Stuart Savings Bank, 204 Iowa 570, 215 N.W. 807 (1927).  
                              Iowa Code §§ 274.7; 279.8 (2005).  
                              281 I.A.C. 12.1(2).

Cross Reference:     204     Code of Ethics

Approved May 2015

Reviewed April 2015

Revised March 1997

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Board members must be able to make decisions objectively. It is a conflict of interest for a board member to receive direct compensation from the school district, unless exempted in this policy, for anything other than reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, including travel, incurred in the performance of official duties. A board member will not act as an agent for a school textbook or school supply company during the board member's term of office. It will not be a conflict of interest for board members to receive compensation from the school district for contracts to purchase goods or services if the benefit to the board member does not exceed \$2,500 in a fiscal year or if the contracts are made by the board, upon competitive bid in writing, publicly invited and opened.

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

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

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

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

It is the responsibility of each board member to be aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest. It is also the responsibility of each board member to take the action necessary to eliminate such a conflict of interest. Should a conflict of interest arise, a board member should not participate in any action relating to the issue from which the conflict arose.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 55; 68B, 71.1; 277.27; 279.7A; 301.28 (2005).  
1990 Op. Att'y Gen. 37.  
1988 Op. Att'y Gen. 21.  
1986 Op. Att'y Gen. 10.  
1984 Op. Att'y Gen. 23.  
1982 Op. Att'y Gen. 302.  
1978 Op. Att'y Gen. 295.  
1976 Op. Att'y Gen. 89.  
1974 Op. Att'y Gen. 137.  
1936 Op. Att'y Gen. 237.

Cross Reference: 201 Board of Directors' Elections  
202.1 Qualifications  
204 Code of Ethics  
216.3 Board of Directors' Member Compensation and Expenses  
217 Gifts to Board of Directors  
401.3 Nepotism

Approved June 2015

Reviewed May 2015

Revised March 1997

## CODE OF ETHICS

Board members' actions, verbal and nonverbal, reflect the attitude and the beliefs of the school district. Therefore, board members must conduct themselves professionally and in a manner fitting to their position.

Each board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

### AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER:

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

## CODE OF ETHICS

### IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

1. I will consider myself a trustee of public education and will do my best to protect it, conserve it, and advance it, giving to the children of my school district community the educational facilities that are as complete and adequate as it is possible to provide.
2. I will consider it an important responsibility of the board to interpret the aims, methods and attitudes of the school district to the community.
3. I will earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the school district community and do my best to translate them into the education program of the school district.
4. I will attempt to procure adequate financial support for the school district.
5. I will represent the entire school district rather than individual electors, patrons or groups.
6. I will not regard the school district facilities as my own private property but as the property of the people.

### IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SUPERINTENDENT AND EMPLOYEES

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

### TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER SCHOOL BOARDS

1. I will not employ a superintendent, principal or teacher who is already under contract with another school district without first securing assurance from the proper authority that the person can be released from contract.
2. I will consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a neighboring board or its representatives.

## CODE OF ETHICS

3. I will not recommend an employee for a position in another school district unless I would employ the employee under similar circumstances.
4. I will answer all inquiries about the standing and ability of an employee to the best of my knowledge and judgment, with complete frankness.
5. I will associate myself with board members of other school districts for the purpose of discussing school district issues and cooperating in the improvement of the education program.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21.6(3)(d); 68B; 69; 277.28; 279.7A, 279.8, 301.28 (2005).

Cross Reference: 202 Board of Directors Members  
203 Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest

Approved June 2015

Reviewed May 2015

Revised March 1997

## BOARD SECURITY AND PROTECTION

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

Individuals who threaten the board with violence or who are continuously disruptive may be asked to leave the meeting. If the individuals do not leave, the board may have law enforcement officials escort the individuals from the board meeting. The board may hire a security officer if the board members' concern for safety or actions by spectators warrants it.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21.7; 279.8; 716.7 (2005).

Cross Reference: 215 Public Participation in Board Meetings  
904.4 Public Conduct on School Premises

Approved June 2015

Reviewed May 2015

Revised March 1997



## BOARD MEMBER LIABILITY

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

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

Legal Reference: Wood v. Strickland, 420 U.S. 308 (1975).  
42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 1985 (1994).  
Iowa Code ch. 670 (2005).

Cross Reference: 709 Insurance

Approved June 2015

Reviewed May 2015

Revised March 1997

## PRESIDENT

It shall be the responsibility of the board president to lead a well-organized board in an efficient and effective manner. The board president shall set the tone of the board meetings and, as the representative of the consensus of the board, speak on behalf of the board to the public.

The president of the board shall be elected by a majority vote at the organizational meeting in odd numbered years, or at the annual meeting, in even numbered years to serve a one year term of office.

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

The board president has the authority to call special meetings of the board. Prior to board meetings, the board president shall consult with the superintendent on the development of the agenda for the meeting.

The board president, as the chief officer of the school district, shall sign employment contracts and sign other contracts and school district warrants approved by the board and appear on behalf of the school corporation in causes of action involving the school district.

***NOTE: If another method for electing the board president is used, that method should be outlined in this policy as well as Policy 200.1. This policy reflects the legal responsibilities of the board president including the signing of employment contracts.***

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.1-.2; 291.1 (2005).

Cross Reference: 200.2 Organization of the Board of Directors  
202.2 Oath of Office  
206.2 Vice President

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## VICE PRESIDENT

If the board president is unable or unwilling to carry out the duties required, it shall be the responsibility of the vice president of the board to carry out the duties of the president. If the president is unable or unwilling to complete the term of office, the vice president shall serve as president for the balance of the president's term of office, and a new vice president shall be elected.

The vice president of the board shall be elected by a majority vote at the organizational meeting in odd numbered years, or at the annual meeting, in even numbered years to serve a one-year term of office.

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

***NOTE: If another method for electing the board vice-president is used, that method should be outlined in this policy as well as Policy 200.1.***

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.5 (2005).

Cross Reference: 200.2 Organization of the Board of Directors  
202.2 Oath of Office  
206.1 President

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## SECRETARY-TREASURER

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 12B.10; 12C; 64; 279.3, .5, .7, .31-.33, .35; 291.2-.4, .6-.15; 299.10, .16 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(1).  
1978 Op. Att'y Gen. 328.

Cross Reference: 202.2 Oath of Office  
210.1 Annual Meeting  
215 Board of Directors' Records  
501.10 Truancy - Unexcused Absences  
704.3 Investments  
707 Fiscal Reports  
708 Care, Maintenance and Disposal of School District Records

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' LEGAL COUNSEL

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Bishop v. Iowa State Board of Public Instruction, 395 N.W.2d 888 (Iowa 1986).  
Iowa Code § 279.37 (2005).

Cross Reference: 200 Legal Status of the Board of Directors

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SELF-EVALUATION

Periodically, the board shall conduct an evaluation of itself. The goal of the self-evaluation is not to criticize fellow board members but rather to point out strengths as well as weaknesses of the board.

The evaluation will focus on board policies, board meetings, education program, financial management, board members' personal qualities, and the board's relationship with the superintendent, employees, school district community, and students.

It shall be the responsibility of the board president to develop a board evaluation program. The board may employ an outside facilitator if the board determines the facilitator is necessary.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 105 Long-Range Needs Assessment

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 279.8; 280.12(2) (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(3), .3(8); .5(8).  
O.A.G., Nov. 18, 1993

Cross Reference: 104 The People and Their School District  
105 Long-Range Needs Assessment  
212 Open Meetings  
213 Closed Sessions  
218 Board of Directors' Records  
605.1 Instructional Materials Selection  
900 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## AD HOC COMMITTEES EXHIBIT

### Ad Hoc Committee Purpose and Function

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

### Role of an Ad Hoc Committee Member

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

### Ad Hoc Committee Membership

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

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997



## DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 274.1-.2; 279.8 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).  
1970 Op. Att'y Gen. 287.

Cross Reference: 101 Educational Philosophy of the School District  
200.1 Role of the Board of Directors  
200.3 Powers of the Board of Directors  
200.4 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## ADOPTION OF POLICY

The board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two regular board meetings. The proposed policy changes shall be distributed and public comment will be allowed at both meetings prior to final board action. This notice procedure shall be required except for emergency situations. If the board adopts a policy in an emergency situation, a statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The board shall have complete discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).  
1970 Op. Att'y Gen. 287.

Cross Reference: 200.1 Role of the Board of Directors  
200.3 Powers of the Board of Directors  
200.4 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015R

Revised March 1997

## DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

A board policy manual shall be housed in each school attendance center and in the central administration office. Each board member shall have a personal copy of the board policy manual. Persons wishing to review the board policy manual shall contact the board secretary, who shall have a board policy manual available for public inspection.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary to ensure copies of new and revised policy statements are distributed to the custodians of board policy manuals no later than the first regular board meeting following the policy's adoption. Copies of changes in board policy shall also be included in or attached to the minutes of the meetings in which the final action was taken to adopt the new or changed policy.

It shall be the responsibility of each board member, during the board member's term of office, to keep the manual current and up-to-date and to surrender the manual to the board secretary at the conclusion of the board member's term of office.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 277.31; 279.8 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Cross Reference: 200.4 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved August 2015

Reviewed July 2015

Revised March 1997

## SUSPENSION OF POLICY

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Cross Reference: 200.4 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved September 2015

Reviewed August 2015

Revised March 1997

## ADMINISTRATION IN THE ABSENCE OF POLICY

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Cross Reference: 200.4 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures  
303.4 Superintendent Duties  
306 Policy Implementation

Approved September 2015

Reviewed August 2015

Revised March 1997

## REVIEW AND REVISION OF POLICY

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

The board will review one-fourth of the policy manual annually according to the established review cycle:

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

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(2).

Cross Reference: 200.3 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors  
209 Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved September 2015

Reviewed August 2015

Revised March 1997

## REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

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

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement the board policies. The regulations, including handbooks, will be reviewed and approved by the board prior to their use in the school district.

The administrative regulations will be available within sixty days after the adoption of the board policy unless the board directs otherwise.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8, .20 (2005).

Cross Reference: 200.4 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors  
210 Board of Directors' Management Procedures

Approved September 2015

Reviewed August 2015

Revised March 1997

