

## Series 9000 - Bylaws of the Board

### 0. Role of Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties)

The ~~Suffield~~ Board of Education shall govern the ~~Suffield~~ school district and derives its power, and exists, under in such a manner that it sets the standard for policy, governance, public engagement and stewardship as defined under the Constitution, General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and the regulations procedures of the Connecticut State Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-200 Definitions.

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-240 Control of schools.

10-241 Powers of school districts.

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

Bylaw adopted by Board: December 2, 1997

Bylaw revised: August 21, 2012

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Suffield, Connecticut

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#### A. Statement of Integrity

As members of the ~~Suffield~~ Board of Education, our priority is to advance student achievement in our district. We must work effectively as a Board and with others in the community to successfully address the educational welfare of ~~Suffield~~ students and, promote the mission and goals of ~~the~~ Suffield Public Schools, ~~as well as provide a safe and inspiring environment for all students.~~ Board of Education members will, within the parameters of their role:

- Create and nurture a safe and respectful environment for all students, teachers, staff and administrators
- ~~Be active and visible members of the school district~~
- Promote and render decisions of the educational welfare of students based on judgment of available facts, while avoiding influence from individuals, special interests, or foregoing any personal agendas
- Embrace~~Expect~~ a diversity of perspectives among Board members and be tolerant of members who may not share the same perspective
- Facilitate and pParticipate in ongoing communications between the Board, Superintendent, staff, parents, students and community
- Foster an environment where community members feel comfortable expressing their ideas during public comment or other channels of communication
- Refrain from using ~~at their~~ position on the Board for personal and/or partisan gain
- Declare a conflict of interest, if one arises, and excuse oneself from related discussion and action on that issue
- Attend and be prepared for Board meetings

Bylaw adopted by the Board: December 2, 1997

Bylaw revised: August 21, 2012

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#### B. Limits of Authority

The ~~Suffield~~-Board of Education is a unit of authority. A Board member's authority is derived from its compliance with statutory requirement, its bylaws, policies, and regulations.

As an individual, a Board member's legal authority exists only at such time the Board is in session unless granted authorization to conduct Board business upon Board approval for specific committee work or other designated approval.

Individually, Board members may not commit the District to any policy, act or expenditure. The Board member is prohibited from doing any business and from having an interest in any contract with the school district in general.

~~Board members shall exercise respect in those matters pertaining to the responsibilities of the Superintendent whose authority it is to administer the educational programs and business of the~~  
No Board member shall exercise any administrative authority with respect to the schools. No Board member shall command the service of any school employee.

~~Individually, Board members may not commit the District to any policy, act or expenditure. The Board member is prohibited from doing any business and from having an interest in any contract with the school district in general. As an individual, a Board member's legal authority exists only at such time the Board is in session unless granted authorization to conduct Board business upon Board approval for specific committee work or other designated approval.~~

Personnel matters and records other than those made available to the entire Board by the Superintendent shall not be made available to individual Board members unless it is appropriate and necessary to fulfill specific responsibilities assigned by the Board.

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#### D. Legal Responsibilities of the Board of Education

The powers, duties, and the responsibilities of the ~~Suffield~~ Board of Education originate from state statutes. The Board of Education shall have authority to take all necessary or advisable action to meet its responsibilities including, but not limited to the following:

~~By fulfilling its mission to provide all students with a comprehensive public education and prepare students to meet the demands of an ever changing world.~~

~~The Suffield Board of Education has the legal responsibility to:~~

- Conduct all business at a legal meeting of the Board.
- ~~Act as a whole entity, except as a committee initiated in accordance with its bylaws that may act on matters before it and in conformity with the committee's purpose or charge~~
- ~~Have its individual members make no commitment for the Board or issue orders for the Board, except when executing an assignment delegated by the Board~~
- ~~Concern itself with educational policy and not with administrative details of the district's operations.~~
- To annually establish, with the Superintendent, educational priorities for the district.
- To elect and review a Superintendent in accordance with state statutes.
- To consider and adopt an annual budget, prepared by the Superintendent.
- To establish all policies for the district.
- ~~To consider any specific recommendations made by the Superintendent.~~
- ~~To take other actions required or permitted by law.~~
- To make reasonable provision to implement the educational interests of the State, as defined by law.
- To take other actions required or permitted by law.
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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

53a-65 Definitions

10-220 Duties of Boards of Education

Bylaw adopted by the Board: December 2, 1997  
Bylaw Revised: September 18, 2012

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#### E. Public Statements

The ~~Suffield~~-Board of Education recognizes that communication is a continuous two-way process. The Board believes that it is important to keep the public informed about educational programs, and, in turn, that the community should have the opportunity to provide input.

Press releases relative to Board action shall be released only by the Board Chairperson or the delegated agent of the Board.

~~Communication will be a concurrent responsibility of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools will work with the members of the Board of Education to conduct an active and comprehensive program throughout the school district and community for the prompt dissemination of information about decisions made at all Board meetings. Releases to the press and brief summaries of Board meeting actions prepared for distribution to staff members and parent/guardians are regarded as appropriate media of information for meeting the requirements of this by law. Press releases relative to Board of Education action shall be released only by the Board Chairperson or the delegated agent of the Board.~~

(cf. 1112.2 – School News Releases)

(cf. 1120 – Board of Education Meetings)

Bylaw adopted by the Board: December 2, 1997

Bylaw reviewed: May 1, 2012

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#### G. Board-Related Responsibilities

In order to enassure that its operations support the schools in providing all students with a high quality education, the Suffield Board of Education shall:

~~1.~~

~~The Board of Education shall:~~

~~2.~~

~~3.1. Provide leadership in order to support all students with a high quality education~~

~~4.2. Employ an able and qualified Superintendent of Schools to effectively carry out the goals and objectives of the Board of Education. Conduct an annual evaluation of the superintendent.~~

~~5.3. Effectively and continually develop, review, refine, monitor, and adopt policies to govern the operation of the school district. Formulate Board policies which best serve the educational interests of students and provide the Superintendent with sufficient and adequate guidelines for implementation and monitoring.~~

~~6.4. Develop, adopt and monitor a fiscally responsible annual budget balancing education needs against available resources.~~

~~1.5. Work closely with the community to ensure that Board actions and performance reflect the concerns and aspirations of the community.~~

~~7.6. Provide leadership in order that the goals and objectives of the district, as set forth by the Board, can be effectively carried out.~~

~~8.7. Identify and communicate to the community the educational needs of the school district.~~

~~9.8. Keep informed of the future education needs of the town, state and nation.~~

~~10.9. Develop, adopt and monitor a fiscally responsible annual budget balancing education needs against available resources.~~

~~10. Perform all Board functions and operations in conformity with federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.~~

~~11.~~

~~12. Evaluate on an annual basis the Board's performance in relation to these goals responsibilities, and to as well as any set goals, establish and clarify policies based on the results of such evaluation.~~

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#### **~~H. Board-Superintendent Relationship~~**

~~The Superintendent of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Board of Education and serves as its professional advisor. In accordance with the policies of the Board and the Connecticut General Statutes, the Superintendent is responsible for administering and supervising the Suffield Public School system and for all other activities under the control of the Board of Education.~~

~~The Superintendent shall be responsible for all aspects of school district operation, and is charged with such duties and powers as delegated or directed by the Board of Education. The Superintendent may delegate the responsibility and the authority necessary to discharge those responsibilities to other school administrators and/or school personnel, and shall develop such procedures and regulations as he/she considers necessary to ensure efficient operation of the school district.~~

~~The Suffield Board of Education ensures through its hiring and its annual review that the Superintendent is professionally able and possesses outstanding qualities of leadership, vision, and administrative skill and that the Superintendent will implement all policies of the Board of Education in good faith.~~

~~The Superintendent can expect that the Board of Education will respect the Superintendent's professional competence and extend to him/her full responsibility for implementation of the Board's policy decisions. The Superintendent can expect the Board of Education to support the Superintendent's decisions and the administration of the Suffield Public School system.~~