

## Series 9000 - By Laws of the Board

### 0. Roles of Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties)

#### F. Commitment to Democratic Principles Relating to Board Communications and Interactions

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain open communication between itself and staff. Communications with staff deal with three general areas – administration, policy, and philosophy. While the Board recognizes the necessity for board-staff communications, it also recognizes that administrative matters must be dealt with through the Superintendent.

##### Staff Communications to the Board

All formal reports to the Board or any Board committee from administrators, supervisors, teachers, or other staff members shall be submitted through the Superintendent.

Any staff appeal to the Board must be processed in accordance with the collective bargaining clause on complaints and grievances.

##### Board Communication to Staff

All official communications, policies, and directives of staff interest and concern will be communicated to staff members through the Superintendent. The Superintendent will employ all such media as are appropriate to keep staff fully informed of the Board's concerns, priorities, and actions.

##### Visits to Schools

Individual Board members have no authority in the school system. Individual Board members interested in visiting schools or classrooms in a Board-related capacity will make arrangements for visitations through the Superintendent, with notification to the Board Chair. Such visits will be considered as informal expressions of interest in school affairs and not as “inspections” or visits for supervisory or administrative purposes. Board members are required to adhere to current sign-in or identifications procedures.

##### Social Interaction

Any social interaction and/or discussion between a Board and staff member is to be considered informal. Individual Board members have no special authority except when they are convened at a legal meeting of the Board or vested with special authority by Board action. Board members are expected to avoid discussion(s) of: matters that are, or have the potential of becoming the subject of an executive session; information and data contained in personnel records protected by the Privacy Act or delineated in the Student Privacy Act; contested issues that may require final resolution by the Board.

##### Board Liaisons

In consultation with the Superintendent, the chairperson of the Board of Education may assign board members to district committees as Board liaisons. Individual Board members must remember that they have no special authority except when they are convened at a legal meeting of the Board.