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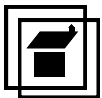


POLICY

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0000.02 INTRODUCTION

Definitions

The following terms used in these bylaws, policies, and regulations shall have the meanings set forth below unless the context requires a different meaning or a different definition is supplied:

“Board” means the Board of Education of Spotswood.

“Bylaw” means a rule of the Board for its own operation.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Chief Executive Officer of this school district, whose title in this district is Superintendent.

“Collective Bargaining”, “Negotiated Agreement”, or “Collective Bargaining Agreement” means a contract collectively negotiated by the Board of Education and a recognized bargaining unit.

“Commissioner” means the New Jersey State Commissioner of Education.

“Core Curriculum Content Standards” means the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards initiatives coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governor’s Association (NGA) in partnership with other national organizations.

“County Superintendent” means the Executive County Superintendent of Schools designated by the Department of Education for this school district. “Executive County Superintendent” means the “County Superintendent.”

“Day” means a calendar day.

“Full Board” means the authorized number of voting members of the Board of Education.

“Meeting” means a gathering that is attended by or open to all of the members of the Board of Education, held with the intent on the part of the Board members present to discuss or act as a unit on the specific public business of the Board of Education.

“Parent” means the natural parent(s), adoptive parent(s), legal guardian(s), foster parent(s), or parent surrogate(s) of a pupil. Where parents are separated or divorced, “parent” means the person or agency who has legal custody of the pupil, as well as the

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natural or adoptive parent(s) of the pupil provided such parental rights have not been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

“Policy” means a Statement, formally adopted by the Board of Education, in which the Board recognizes the mandates and constraints of law, establishes practices and standards binding on staff members and pupils, and gives direction to the Superintendent.

“President” means the President of the Board of Education.

“Principal” means the administrator in charge of a school building or facility; except where prohibited by law, “Principal or designee” means the qualified person duly delegated by the Principal to discharge a particular duty in place of the Principal.

“Professional employee” means an employee who holds a position for which a certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is required.

“Pupil” means a student enrolled in a school in this district.

“Regulation” means a Statement developed and promulgated by the Superintendent that details the specific operations by which Board policy or a legal mandate is implemented.

“Secretary” means the Secretary of the Board of Education.

“Student” means a pupil enrolled in a school in this district.

“Superintendent” means the Chief School Administrator of this school district; except where prohibited by law, “Superintendent or designee” means the qualified person duly delegated by the Superintendent to discharge a particular duty in place of the Superintendent.

“Support staff member” means an employee who holds a position for which no certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is required.

“Teaching staff member” means an employee who holds a position for which a certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is required.

“Treasurer” means the Treasurer of School Moneys for this school district.

Construction

The following rules of construction apply to these bylaws, policies and regulations:

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1. Wherever possible, language shall be given its clear and ordinary interpretation;
2. Language shall be construed to have a meaning that complies with law;
3. In the event bylaws, policies and regulations conflict with one another, the later adopted bylaw, policy or regulation shall take precedence over the earlier, and the more specific bylaw, policy or regulation shall take precedence over the more general;
4. Except as otherwise provided by the context, the auxiliary verbs “shall,” “will,” and “must” indicate a mandated action, and the auxiliary verb “may” indicates an action that is permitted but is not mandated.

Effectuation

Except as may otherwise be expressly provided, a bylaw, policy or regulation will become effective on the date it is adopted and a revised bylaw, policy or regulation will become effective on the date it is revised.

Citations

Bylaws, policies and regulations may contain citations to the following codifications of State and Federal laws and regulations:

1. United States Statutes
20 U.S.C.A. Education
2. United States Regulations
34 C.F.R. Education
3. New Jersey Statutes
N.J.S.A. 2C Code of Criminal Justice
N.J.S.A. 9 Children-Juvenile and Domestic Relations
N.J.S.A. 10 Civil Rights
N.J.S.A. 11 Civil Service
N.J.S.A. 17 Corporations and Institutions for Finance and Insurance
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4. New Jersey Administrative Code

N.J.A.C. 1 Administrative Law
N.J.A.C. 6 & 6A Education
N.J.A.C. 8 Health
N.J.A.C. 10 Human Services
N.J.A.C. 13 Law and Public Safety
N.J.A.C. 17 Treasury-General

Severability

If any part of this manual is made invalid by judicial decision or legislative or administrative enactment, all other parts shall remain in full effect unless and until they are amended or repealed by the Board of Education or until regulations issued by the Superintendent are amended.

Enactment

The official record of the adoption, issuance, amendment, or repeal of the bylaws, policies and regulations of this district shall be the minutes of meetings of the Board of Education. Such alterations shall be duly entered in this manual; a master copy of the bylaw, policy and regulation manual shall be maintained by the Board of Education and shall be the manual to which all others may be compared for accuracy.

0110 IDENTIFICATION

Name

The official name of the Board of Education shall be “The Board of Education of Spotswood School District in the County of Middlesex.”

Purpose

The Board of Education exists for the purpose of providing a thorough and efficient system of free public education in grades Pre-Kindergarten through twelve in the Spotswood School District.

Composition

The Spotswood School District is comprised of all the area within the municipal boundaries of Spotswood.

Classification

The school district shall be classified as a Type II district.

Address

The address of the Board of Education shall be:

105 Summerhill Road
Spotswood, New Jersey 08884

N.J.S.A. 18A:8-1; 18A:9-2; 18A:9-3; 18A:10-2

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0120 AUTHORITY AND POWERS

The general mandatory powers and duties of the Board are defined in Title 18A of New Jersey statutes. Other sections of the statutes state or imply that a local Board of Education has full power to operate the local public schools as it deems fit in compliance with State and Federal mandates and pertinent laws of the municipality. The Board functions only when in session.

The Board of Education sees these as its required functions:

1. Policy oversight

The Board is responsible for the development of policy and for the employment of a Superintendent who shall carry out its policies through the development and implementation of regulations. The Board is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of its policies and their implementation. This includes setting and evaluating goals in educational and financial areas.

2. Educational planning

The Board is responsible for requiring and acquiring reliable information from responsible sources which will enable it and the staff to work toward the continuing improvement of the educational program.

3. Provision of financial resources

The Board has major responsibilities for the adoption of a budget which will provide the wherewithal - in terms of buildings, staff, materials, and equipment - to enable the school system to carry out its functions.

4. Interpretation

The Board is responsible for providing adequate and direct means for keeping the local community informed about the school and for keeping itself and the school staff informed about the wishes of the public. All planning, both that which is and that which is not related to the budget, needs to be interpreted to the public if citizens are to support the school program.

The Board believes that, by diligently exercising these functions, it will be able to provide, within the financial limitations set by the community, the best educational opportunities possible for the children.



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Authority and Powers

The Board shall exercise its powers through the legislation of bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of the school district.

The Board shall be responsible for the operation of the school but shall delegate the administration to the Superintendent, who shall be appointed by a recorded roll-call majority vote of the full board.

The Board may hear appeals in complaints and in grievance and disciplinary actions as defined in these policies and in the law.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-1; 18A:11-1; 18A:16-1; 18A:20-1; 18A:27-4

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0131 BYLAWS AND POLICIES

Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws

The Board of Education's bylaws are rules designed to organize and control its internal operations. Some bylaws are set by statute. Others may be formulated and adopted at its option by the Board of Education itself as long as they are in harmony with the intent and specifics of the statutes.

In its deliberations leading to the establishment or amendment of its bylaws, the Board's central concern will be for increased efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out its legally mandated tasks.

Proposed new bylaws and suggested amendments to or revisions of existing bylaws shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Board present and voting during the second of two regularly or specially scheduled meetings of the Board. The proposed additions, amendments, or revisions shall have been described in writing in the calls for these meetings.

Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies

The governance of the district through policies directed toward providing a thorough and efficient education for its pupils is one of the most important functions of the Board of Education. Therefore, the Board shall establish a careful process to ensure:

1. Development of clear, workable, legal policies which reflect mature consideration of the will and needs of the community; and
2. Timely, accurate evaluation of the effectiveness of the policies in the achievement of district objectives and progress toward goals; and
3. Adoption of the policy development codification system of the NJ School Boards' Association.

In order to ensure that the total policy process is implemented effectively, the Board appoints the Superintendent to implement this bylaw which shall include an action plan for the rational development of policies and their regular review; appropriate policy goal-setting; a process for evaluation of district and school progress toward or achievement of policy goals; and appropriate standards of measurement and criteria for judging such progress.



The procedures shall conform in all respects to the bylaws of the Board concerning agenda and meetings. The procedures shall provide a means whereby all interested parties in the school community may submit proposals for additions and amendments to the school district governance manual, and may contribute opinions and information for the Board's consideration.

The policy coordinator shall ascertain any conflicts between proposed and existing policies and bring them to the attention of the Board at the first reading of the draft. Policies may be adopted on second reading by a majority vote of the members of the Board present and voting or may be further revised until consensus is reached. Note: First reading means the first time the policy is presented, not the first time a policy is approved in its final form.

In the interest of efficient administration, the Superintendent shall have the power to decide all matters of detail that may arise for which no specific provision is made in the policies adopted by the Board, but no emergency action shall constitute official Board policy. The Superintendent shall present the matter at the next Board meeting, so the Board can consider policy to deal with that situation in the future.

Accessibility is to extend at least to all employees of the school system, to members of the Board, the Board attorney, and the reference section of the local library.

All copies disseminated by the Board shall remain the property of the Board and are subject to recall or revision by written notice.

The Board reserves to itself the right to final determination of what shall be the official policy of the school district.

Suspension of Policies, Bylaws, and Regulations

The Board of Education has developed a careful and deliberate process of formulating and adopting its policies and bylaws. Requests for suspension of any existing policy or bylaw should receive the same careful consideration.

Therefore:

1. Any request for a waiver of policy or bylaw shall be considered in light of the policy or bylaw itself, rather than any particular circumstances of the moment.
2. The Board shall decide whether the policy or bylaw still reflects the considered intent of the Board. If it does, the suspension will be denied and the policy or bylaw reaffirmed in the minutes.



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Bylaws and Policies

3. If the policy or bylaw does not reflect the intent of the Board, then the policy shall be waived by a majority vote of the members of the Board present and voting and development of a revised policy or bylaw shall become the Board's prime policy priority.

In the event of an emergency requiring immediate action, the Superintendent shall have the power to waive policy or regulation in the single instance. In such cases, the Superintendent shall report the instance to the Board President immediately, and request reconsideration of the policy at the next regular meeting.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0132 EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

The Board of Education shall exercise its executive power in part by the appointment of a Superintendent as Chief School Administrator, who shall enforce the statutes of the State of New Jersey, rules of the State Board of Education, and policies of this Board.

The Superintendent shall prepare regulations for the administration of the school district that are consistent with statutes or rules of the State Board of Education and are dictated by the policies of this Board. Administrative regulations shall be binding upon the employees and the pupils of this school district when issued by the Superintendent and shall be provided to the Board for the information of Board members except where Board approval is required by law. The Board reserves the right to revise an administrative regulation proposed by the Superintendent provided the revision is consistent with policy, statute, administrative code, or any other applicable law or collective bargaining agreement. Any administrative regulation that requires Board approval shall be Board-approved prior to promulgation.

The Superintendent shall be delegated the authority to take necessary action in circumstances not governed by Board policy and shall report any such action to the Board at the first regular Board meeting following the action.

The Superintendent shall have a seat on the Board and shall have the right to speak on all matters at meetings of the Board, but shall have no vote.

The Business Manager in a Type I school district shall have a seat on the Board and the right to speak on all matters relating to his/her department, but shall not have the right to vote.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20

Adopted: 2 September 2008
Revised: 26 February 2013

0133 ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES

The Board of Education may assume jurisdiction over any dispute or controversy arising within this school district and concerning any matter over which authority has been vested in the Board by statute, rule of the State Board of Education, or a contract or policy of this Board.

The Board may hold hearings that will offer the parties to a dispute, on notice duly given, a fair and impartial forum for the resolution of the matter.

Beyond the basic requirements of due process a hearing will vary in form and content as dictated by the severity of the consequences that may flow from the Board's determination, the degree of difficulty of establishing findings of fact from conflicting evidence, and the impact of the Board's decision on the school district.

Regulations for the conduct of adjudicatory hearings of the Board shall be prepared as guidelines for those who may be heard by the Board.

A decision of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0134 BOARD SELF EVALUATION

The Board of Education may determine to conduct a self-evaluation on a periodic or regular basis. In the event the Board determines to conduct a self-evaluation, it will adopt an evaluation instrument that permits individual Board members to record their assessments of the conduct of the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in accordance with applicable statutes and administrative codes.

The assessments will be tabulated by the Board President or designee and presented for discussion at a regular meeting of the Board in which the Superintendent will be invited to participate. The Board will formulate, as appropriate, goals and priorities that will serve to guide the Board's future conduct.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 2 September 2008
Revised: 16 February 2016

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BOARD MEMBER NUMBER AND TERM

0141 BOARD MEMBER NUMBER AND TERM

The Board of Education shall consist of five (5) members.

The term of a Board member shall be three (3) years.

The term of a Board member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be from the member's appointment to the organizational meeting following the next annual election. Any vacancy for the remainder of the term shall be filled at the next annual school election, except that

1. A Board member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring within sixty days immediately preceding an annual election occurring in April, to fill a term extending beyond the next election, shall serve until the organizational meeting following the second annual election next succeeding the occurrence of the vacancy; or
2. A Board member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring after the third Monday in July for an annual election occurring in November, to fill a term extending beyond the next election, shall serve until the organizational meeting following the second annual election next succeeding the occurrence of the vacancy.

Any vacancy for the remainder of a term shall be filled at the annual election or the second annual election next succeeding the occurrence of a vacancy, as the case may be.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-6; 18A:12-9; 18A:12-11; 18A:12-15

Adopted: 19 July 2016

0141.2 BOARD MEMBERS AND TERM - RECEIVING DISTRICT

The Board of Education shall consist of five members.

The term of a Board member shall be three years, except that:

1. The term of a member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be from the member's appointment to the organizational meeting following the next annual election, except that;
2. The term of a member appointed to fill a vacancy within sixty days immediately preceding an annual election shall be from the member's appointment to the organizational meeting following the second annual election after his/her appointment, except for Board members of a sending district;
3. Representation on the receiving district Board shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2 et. seq. the sending district shall have no representation on the receiving district Board of Education if the pupils of a sending district comprise less than 10% of the total enrollment of the pupils in the grades of the receiving district in which the pupils of the sending district will be enrolled. If the pupils of a sending district comprise at least 10% of the total enrollment of the pupils in the grades of the receiving district in which the pupils of the sending district will be enrolled, the sending district will have representation on the receiving Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.a.(2). The calculation of percentages required shall be based on the number of pupils reported as of the last school day prior to October 16 of each prebudget year.

If the total number of pupils of two or more sending districts, which do not qualify for representation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.a.(2)., comprise at least 15% of the total enrollment of the pupils in the grades of the receiving district in which the pupils of sending districts will have representation on the receiving board of education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.b. The number of representatives designated by the sending districts shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.c.

Representation on the receiving district Board shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.4. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.4, the sending district shall have no representation on the receiving district Board of Education if



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Board Members and Term – Receiving District

the pupils of the sending district comprise less than 10% of the total enrollment of the pupils in grades 9 through 12 of the receiving district. The number of representatives shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.4. The calculation of the percentages required shall be based on the number of pupils reported as of the last school day prior to October 16 of the prebudget year. The number of representatives designated by the sending districts, if the sending district pupil comprise at least 10% of the receiving district of pupils in grades 9 through 12 shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.4.a-d.

The Milltown and Helmetta Boards of Education shall designate their representative(s) to serve on the receiving district Board of Education on an annual basis upon notification from the County Superintendent of the appropriate representation on the receiving Board of Education. This designation shall be made by the sending Board of Education at its meeting closest in time to the annual organization meeting of the Board of Education and shall serve a one year term beginning with the annual reorganization meeting.

4. The Milltown and Helmetta representative(s) shall be eligible to vote on the following matters before the Spotswood Public Schools Board of Education:
 - a. Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district;
 - b. New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils;
 - c. Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to the pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff; and
 - d. Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district.
5. While the sending district representative shall have limited voting rights, in all other respects the representative shall function as a full member of the Board of Education, including participation in the closed session discussions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-6; 18A:12-9; 18A:12-11; 18A:12-15; 18A:38-8

N.J.A.C. 6:56-1.1

Adopted: 2 September 2008



BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, PROHIBITED ACTS AND CODE OF ETHICS (M)

0142 BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, PROHIBITED ACTS AND CODE OF ETHICS (M)

Each member of the Board of Education shall possess the qualifications required by law and shall be bound by the provisions of the School Ethics Act.

Qualification of Office

A Board member must be a citizen of the United States.

A Board member must be a resident of the district the member represents and must have been such for at least one year immediately preceding the member's election or appointment.

A Board member may not be convicted of a felony.

He/she has not been disqualified due to the conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1. In order to fulfill this requirement:

1. Each member of the board of education, within 30 days of the election or appointment to the board shall undergo a criminal history background check investigation for the purpose of ensuring that the member is not disqualified for membership due to a conviction of a crime or offense pursuant to the statute listed above; and
2. The board shall reimburse the member for the cost of the criminal history record check, including all costs for administering and processing the check.

A Board member must be able to read and write.

A Board member must be registered to vote in the district and not disqualified from voting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.

A Board member cannot concurrently hold office as mayor or a member of the governing body of Spotswood.

Prohibited Acts

“Business” means any corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, trust, sole proprietorship, union, political organization, or other legal entity but does not include a school district or other public entity.



BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, PROHIBITED ACTS AND CODE OF ETHICS (M)

“Interest” means the ownership of or control of more than ten percent of the profits, assets, or stocks of a business but does not include the control of assets in a labor union.

“Immediate family” means the person to whom the Board member is legally married and any dependent child of the Board member residing in the same household.

No Board member or member of his/her immediate family shall have an interest in a business organization or engage in any business, transaction, or professional activity that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest.

No Board member shall use or attempt to use his/her official position to secure unwarranted privileges, advantages, or employment for him/herself, members of his/her immediate family, or others.

No Board member shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter where he/she, a member of his/her immediate family, or a business organization in which he/she has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial or personal involvement that might reasonably be expected to impair his/her independence of judgment in the exercise of official duties. No Board member shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter where he/she or a member of his/her immediate family has a personal involvement that is or creates some benefit to the Board member or a member of his/her immediate family.

No Board member shall undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to prejudice his/her independence of judgment in the exercise of official duties.

No Board member or member of his/her immediate family or business organization in which he/she has an interest shall solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise of future employment, or other thing of value based upon an understanding that the gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him/her, directly or indirectly, in the discharge of his/her official duties, except that the member may have solicited or accepted contributions to his/her campaign for election to public office if he/she had no knowledge or reason to believe that the campaign contribution, if accepted, was given with the intent to influence him/her in the discharge of official duties. Board members may not accept offers of meals, entertainment or hospitality which are limited to clients/customers of the individual providing such hospitality. Board members may attend hospitality suites or receptions at conferences only when they are open to all persons attending the conference.



BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, PROHIBITED ACTS AND CODE OF ETHICS (M)

No Board member shall use, or allow to be used, his public office or any information not generally available to the members of the public which he/she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his/her office, for the purpose of securing financial gain for him/herself, any member of his/her immediate family, or any business organization with which he/she is associated.

No Board member or business organization in which he/she has an interest shall represent any person or party other than the Board of Education or this school district in connection with any cause, proceeding, application, or other matter pending before this school district or in any proceeding involving this school district, except that this provision shall not be deemed to prohibit representation within the context of official labor union or similar representational responsibilities.

It is not a conflict of interest if, merely by reason of his/her participation in any matter voted upon by the Board, a Board member accrues material or monetary gain that is no greater than the gain that could reasonably be expected to accrue to any other member of the member's business, profession, occupation, or group.

No elected Board member shall be prohibited from making an inquiry for information on behalf of a constituent, if no fee, reward, or other thing of value is promised to or given to or accepted by the member or a member of his/her immediate family, whether directly or indirectly, in return for the information so requested.

Nothing shall prohibit a Board member or members of his/her immediate family from representing him/herself or themselves in negotiations or proceedings concerning his/her or their own interests, except that Board members shall disqualify themselves from participating in negotiations and voting on collective bargaining agreements where their spouse or dependent children are members of the bargaining unit.

Each Board member shall annually, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-25 and 18A:12-26, file a disclosure statement regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Ineligibility for District Employment

A Board member cannot be appointed to a paid office or position required to be filled by the Board, except where law permits or requires that the office or position be filled by a Board member, and is ineligible for appointment to a paid office or position in the district for at least six months after the member's retirement, resignation, or removal from Board membership.

Code of Ethics



BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, PROHIBITED ACTS AND CODE OF ETHICS (M)

In accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:12-24.1 every Board member will abide by the following Code of Ethics. The Board member will:

1. Uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. Make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
3. Confine his/her Board action to policy making, planning and appraisal, and help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
4. Carry out his/her responsibility not to administer the schools, but together with fellow Board members, insure they are well run.
5. Recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.
6. Refuse to surrender his/her independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
7. Hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools, which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, or the schools. In all other matters, he/she will provide accurate information and, in concert with fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
8. Vote to appoint the best-qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. Support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.



BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS, PROHIBITED ACTS AND CODE OF ETHICS (M)

10. Refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Each Board member is required to sign an acknowledgment that he/she received a copy, read and will become familiar with the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. The Board Secretary will provide each Board member with a copy of the Code of Ethics and the required acknowledgement on an annual basis and will maintain the original signed acknowledgment(s) in the Board office.

The Board will receive a copy of and discuss the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12-21 et seq., at a regular scheduled public meeting each year. The discussion may include presentations by school administrative staff, the Board attorney, Board members and/or other professionals familiar with the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics. In addition, the Board Attorney, Superintendent, and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will keep the Board informed of decisions by the School Ethics Commission, Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education and courts.

Oath of Office

Each Board member shall, before entering upon the duties of the office, swear or affirm under oath that he/she qualifies for membership and will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Board member.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1; 18A:12-1.1; 18A:12-2; 18A:12-2.1;
8A:12-21 through 18A:12-34

N.J.S.A. 41:1-3

School Ethics Commission Policy Guideline 1.

Adopted: 2 September 2008

Revised: 6 September 2011



0142.1 NEPOTISM M

The Board of Education adopts this Nepotism Policy as a condition of receiving State aid pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2.

For the purposes of this Policy, “relative” means an individual's spouse, by marriage or civil union pursuant to N.J.S.A. 37:1-33, domestic partner as defined in N.J.S.A. 26:8A-3, or the individual's or spouse's parent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother or half-sister, whether the relative is related to the individual or the individual's spouse by blood, marriage or adoption.

For the purposes of this Policy, “immediate family member” means the person’s spouse, partner in a civil union as defined in N.J.S.A. 37:1-33, domestic partner as defined in N.J.S.A. 26:8A-3, or dependent child residing in the same household.

For the purposes of this Policy, “administrator” is defined as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-23.

No relative of a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools shall be employed in an office or position in this school district except that a person employed by the school district on the effective date of the Policy or the date a relative becomes a Board member or Superintendent shall not be prohibited from continuing to be employed or promoted in the district.

The Superintendent of Schools shall not recommend to the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1 any relative of a Board member or the Superintendent. However, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2(a)2, the district may employ a relative of a Board member or Superintendent of Schools provided the district obtains the approval from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools. Such approval shall be granted only upon demonstration by the school district that it conducted a thorough search for candidates and that the proposed candidate is the only qualified and available person for the position.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2(a)6.(b), per diem substitutes and student employees who are relatives of a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools shall be excluded from the provisions of this Policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2.

A school district administrator shall be prohibited from exercising direct or indirect authority, supervision, or control over a relative of the administrator. Where it is not feasible to eliminate such a direct or indirect supervisory relationship, appropriate screens and/or alternative supervision and reporting mechanisms must be put in place.

A school district administrator or Board member who has a relative who is a member of the bargaining unit shall be prohibited from discussing or voting on the proposed collective bargaining agreement with that unit or from participating in any way in negotiations, including, but not limited to, being a member of the negotiating team; nor should that school district administrator be present with the Board in closed session when negotiation strategies are being discussed; provided however, that the administrator may serve as a technical resource to the negotiating team and may provide technical information necessary to the collective bargaining process when no one else in the district can provide such information.

A school district administrator or Board member who has an immediate family member who is a member of the same Statewide union in another school district shall be prohibited from participating in any way in negotiations, including but not limited to, being a member of the negotiating team or being present with the Board of Education in closed sessions when negotiation strategies are being discussed, prior to the Board of Education attaining a Tentative Memorandum of Agreement with the bargaining unit that includes a salary guide and total compensation package. Once the Tentative Memorandum of Agreement is established, a school district administrator with an immediate family member who is a member of the same State-wide union in another school district may fully participate in the process, absent other conflicts. Notwithstanding these provisions, a district administrator who has an immediate family member who is a member of the same Statewide union in another district may serve as a technical resource to the negotiating team and may provide technical information necessary to the collective bargaining process when no one else in the district can provide the information.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2

Adopted: 2 September 2008
Revised: 2 June 2009
Revised: 2 March 2010

0143 BOARD MEMBER ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

The election and appointment of Board of Education members will be conducted in strict compliance with law.

A vacancy in the membership of a regional Board of Education shall be filled in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:13-11. A vacancy shall be filled from the constituent districts represented by the former incumbents in the same manner as vacancies in the membership of Boards of Education of Type II districts having elected Boards of Education are filled.

A vacancy in the membership of a Board of Education shall be filled as follows:

1. By the Executive County Superintendent, if the vacancy is caused by:
 - a. The absence of candidates for election to the school Board; or
 - b. The removal of a member because of lack of qualifications; or
 - c. The failure of the Board to appoint a person to a vacancy within sixty-five days following its occurrence; or
 - d. Two or more candidates qualified by law for membership on the Board receiving an equal number of votes in a special runoff election.
2. By the Executive County Superintendent, to a number sufficient to make up a quorum of the Board if, by reason of vacancies, a quorum is lacking;
3. By special election within sixty days of the annual school election, if:
 - a. Two or more candidates qualified by law for membership on the school Board receive an equal number of votes in the annual school election; or
 - b. The annual election is disqualified due to improper election procedures.

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BOARD MEMBER ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

4. By the Commissioner of Education if there is a failure to elect a member at the annual school election due to improper campaign practices; or
5. By a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Education after the vacancy occurs in all other cases.

The Board Secretary shall promptly notify the President of a vacancy to be filled by the Board. The President shall inform all other Board members. The Board will give public notice of the vacancy and invite any qualified person to submit a written request for consideration of his/her candidacy for the vacancy. The Board may also require candidates submit a resume with their written request.

In considering candidates who have expressed an interest in a vacancy, the Board of Education may interview candidates in public or executive session. The Board must vote to appoint a candidate to a vacancy in public session and there shall be no decisions made in executive session. In the event interviews are conducted in executive session, Board members, in the public session nomination and voting process, shall express their opinion in support of their vote so the public can witness any deliberations, policy formulation, and the decision making process of the Board.

A roll call vote will be conducted on candidates in the order the candidates were nominated with a second. If there are two or more vacancies, each vacancy will be filled by a separate election process. The first candidate who receives the votes of a majority of the remaining Board members will be elected to the vacancy. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of the remaining Board members, another election process shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-11; 18A:12-15

Adopted: 2 September 2008

Revised: 19 July 2016

0143.2 PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board recognizes that pupils are the primary reason for the existence of the school district. It considers the experience gained by pupils in the district to be a valued source for improving the operation of the school district. The Board is also desirous of furthering the experience of pupils in the governance process and providing opportunities for pupils to contribute to the future direction of the school district.

A junior or senior pupil representative shall attend meetings of the Board and shall be entitled to speak on Board matters. Pursuant to applicable State law, he/she shall not be entitled to vote, but is permitted to sit at the Board table.

The process for selecting the pupil representative and alternate shall be under the direction of the High School Principal.

Pupil representatives shall attend public meetings of the Board and shall be entitled to speak at the discretion of the Board President on all matters before the Board except as may be prohibited by New Jersey Statute or Code. Pupil representatives shall not be entitled to vote. All confidential information obtained by virtue of membership shall be held as such by pupil representatives. Pupil representatives shall be held to the same code of ethics as elected and appointed members of the Board.

Duties and Responsibilities

Pupil representatives:

1. Attend all public Board meetings.
2. Shall be excluded from executive sessions of the Board.
3. Represent the views of the student body.
4. Suggest through appropriate channels Board agenda items.
5. Participate in Board discussions and deliberations at the discretion of the Board President.
6. Serve on Board committees and attend committee meetings at the discretion of the Committee Chairperson.



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Pupil Representatives to the Board of Education

7. Shall be excluded from sensitive and confidential discussions and communications (e.g. matters involving personnel, grievances, negotiations, litigation, real property purchase and other sensitive matters).
8. Receive all Board public agendas.
9. May attend the Board orientation sponsored by the New Jersey School Boards Association.
10. Perform such duties as determined by the Board President in consultation with the Superintendent.

Pupil representatives are expected to adhere to all bylaws, policies and regulations of the Board in their role. The Board in no way relinquishes any of its authority, powers, prerogatives or responsibilities but rather adds to its membership a non-voting pupil representative(s) for the mutual benefit of the Board, student body, and the school district.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0144 BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

The preparation of each member for the performance of Board of Education duties is essential to the proper functioning of the Board. The Board encourages each new Board member in the acquisition of information about school district governance, the separate functions of the Board and the Superintendent, the operations of the district, and Board procedures.

The Board directs that each new member receive:

1. access to and/or a copy of the Board of Education Bylaw and Policy Manual,
2. the manual of administrative regulations,
3. each negotiated agreement,
4. the current budget statement and audit report,
5. the most recent long range facilities plan,
6. and such other materials as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Each new Board member will be invited and is encouraged to meet and discuss the responsibilities and authority of a Board member, Board functions, and Board policies and procedures with the Board President (if available), the Superintendent, and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Each newly elected or appointed Board member shall complete during the first year of the member's first term a training program to be prepared and offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association, in consultation with the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, and the Department of Education, regarding the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a Board member.

The training program shall include information regarding the school district monitoring system established pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 235, the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum, and the five key components of school district effectiveness on which school districts are evaluated under the monitoring

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BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

system: instruction and program; personnel; fiscal management; operations; and governance.

The Board member shall complete a training program on school district governance in each of the subsequent two years of the Board member's first term.

Within one year after each re-election or re-appointment to the Board of Education, the Board member shall complete an advanced training program to be prepared and offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association. This advanced training program shall include information on relevant changes to New Jersey school law and other information deemed appropriate to enable the Board member to serve more effectively.

The New Jersey School Boards Association shall examine options for providing training programs to Board members through alternative methods such as on-line or other distance learning media or through regional-based training.

Within one year after being newly elected or appointed or being re-elected or re-appointed to the Board of Education, a Board member shall complete a training program on harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools, including a school district's responsibilities under P.L. 2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-13 et seq.). A Board member shall be required to complete the program only once. Training on harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools shall be provided by the New Jersey School Boards Association, in consultation with recognized experts in school bullying from a cross section of academia, child advocacy organizations, nonprofit organizations, professional associations, and government agencies.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33; 18A:37-13 et seq.

Adopted: 2 SEPTEMBER 2008

Revised:

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Board Member Resignation and Removal

0145 BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL

The membership of a Board of Education member shall terminate immediately upon:

1. The cessation of the member's bona fide residency in the school district the member represents; or
2. The member's election or appointment to the office of mayor or member of the governing body of Spotswood; or
3. The member's disqualification from voting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1; or
4. The member's conviction for false swearing for having falsely affirmed or declared that he/she is qualified to vote;
5. The removal of the member by the Commissioner of Education; or
6. Recall of a Board member pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.

A member who fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board without good cause may be removed from office on the affirmative votes of a majority of the remaining Board members, provided that:

1. The member's removal was proposed at the immediately previous Board meeting; and
2. Notice of the proposed removal was given to the affected member at least seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2; 18A:12-3; 18A:12-29
N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0146. BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

A Board member does not possess individually the authority and powers that reside in the Board of Education. No Board member by virtue of his/her office shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the operation of the school district or as an individual command the services of any school district employee.

Release of Information

Board member access to public, personnel, and pupil records shall be governed by law and by the provisions of Policy Nos. 8310, 8320, and 8330.

Confidential information to which a Board member becomes privy as a result of his/her office shall be used only for the purpose of helping the member discharge his/her responsibilities as Board member. No Board member shall reveal information contained in a confidential record or received during a duly convened private session of the Board except when that information has been released to the public by the Board.

Public Expressions

Board members are entitled to express themselves publicly on any matter, including issues involving the Board and the school district. Individual Board members cannot, however, express the position of the Board except as expressly authorized, in accordance with Board Policy No. 9120. A Board member shall not represent his/her personal opinion as the position of the Board, and shall include in all formal expressions in which his/her Board affiliation is likely to be recognized, such as letters to government officials or newspapers, speeches to organizations, and the like, a statement that the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Board.

Board members visiting a school shall comply with district policy and procedures for school visitors.

Members of the Board shall adhere to the Code of Ethics for Board members in Bylaw 0142.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 2 September 2008

Revised: 19 April 2011

0147 BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Board of Education will reimburse Board members for travel expenses in accordance with applicable New Jersey Statutes.

For the purpose of this Policy:

1. Travel Expenditures - means those costs paid by the school district using local, State, or Federal funds, whether paid directly by the school district or by employee reimbursement, for travel by school district employees and/or Board of Education members to training and seminars, conventions and conferences, regular school district business, and retreats.
2. Training and Seminars - means all regularly scheduled, formal residential or non-residential training functions conducted at a hotel, motel, convention center, residential facility, or any educational institution or facility.
3. Conventions and Conferences - means general programs, sponsored by professional associations on a regular basis, which address subjects of particular interest to a school district or are convened to conduct association business. The primary purpose of employee attendance at conferences and conventions is the development of new skills and knowledge or the reinforcement of those skills and knowledge in a particular field related to school district operations. These are distinct from formal staff training and seminars although some training may take place at such events.
4. Regular School District Business - means all regular official business travel, including attendance at meetings, conferences, and any other gatherings which are not covered by the definitions for training and seminars and convention and conferences above.
5. Retreats - means meetings with school district employees and Board members held away from the normal work environment at which organizational goals and objectives are discussed. If available, school district facilities shall be utilized for this type of event.

School district travel expenditures include, but are not limited to, all costs for transportation, meals, lodging, and registration or conference fees to and from the travel event. School district travel expenditures include costs for all required training and travel authorized in existing school



district employee contracts and school Board policies. This includes, but is not limited to, required professional development and other staff training, required training for new school Board members, and attendance at specific conferences authorized in existing employee contracts.

The school district shall not bear costs for car rentals, limousine services, and/or chauffeuring costs to or during the event, as well as costs for employee attendance for coordinating other attendees' accommodations at the travel event.

All travel by Board members shall be educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the Board member's current responsibilities. All travel expenditures must be for travel that is critical to the instructional needs of the school district or furthers the efficient operation of the school district and is in compliance with State travel payment guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and with guidelines established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget; except that those guidelines that conflict with the provisions of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall not be applicable, including, but not limited to, the authority to issue travel charge cards.

A Board member shall submit to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary within fifteen calendar days of incurring the travel expense(s) a brief report that includes the primary purpose for the travel and the key issues that were addressed at the event and their relevance to improving instruction or the operation of the school district.

The detailed documentation that demonstrates compliance with P.L. 2007 c.53 and this Policy including travel approvals, reports, and receipts for all school district funded expenditures, as appropriate, shall be maintained in the Business office.

Travel for Board members may occur only upon prior approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and the travel shall be in compliance with section 4 of P.L.1991, c.393 (C.18A:12-24) and section 5 of P.L.2001, c.178 (C.18A:12-24.1).

The Board may approve, at any time prior to the event, travel for multiple months as long as the Board approval, detailed in Board Meeting minutes, itemizes the approval by event, total cost, and number of employees and/or school Board members attending the event. General or blanket pre-approval for travel is not authorized. Approval shall be itemized by event, event total cost, and number of employees and school Board members attending the event.

Travel payments will be paid only upon compliance with P.L. 2007, c. 53 and this Policy's provisions and approval requirements.



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Board Member Travel Expenses

The Board will not ratify or approve payments or reimbursements for travel after completion of the travel event. A Board member or organization shall not receive an amount for travel and/or travel-related expenses in advance of the travel pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 et seq.

A Board member shall recuse himself/herself from voting on travel if the Board member, a member of his/her immediate family, or a business organization in which he/she has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial involvement that may reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity or independence of judgment. A Board member shall not act in his/her official capacity in any matter in which he/she or a member of his/her immediate family has a personal involvement that is or creates some benefit to the school official or member of his/her immediate family; or undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which may reasonably be expected to prejudice his/her independence of judgment in the execution of his/her official duties.

The Board shall exclude from the requirements of prior Board approval any travel caused by or subject to contractual provisions, other statutory requirements, or Federal regulatory requirements. The Board may not exclude such travel from the subsistence requirements and annual maximum travel expenditure pursuant to P.L. 2007 c. 53.

One-day trips that do not involve overnight lodging are not eligible for a subsistence payment or reimbursement except in limited circumstances authorized in the Department of the Treasury guidelines. Overnight travel is eligible for a subsistence payment or reimbursement as authorized in the Department of the Treasury guidelines, except as otherwise superseded by the following provisions:

1. Per diem payment or reimbursement for lodging and meals will be actual reasonable costs, not to exceed the Federal per diem rates as established in the Federal register for the current year;
2. Lodging expenses may exceed the Federal per diem rates if the hotel is the site of the convention, conference, seminar, or meeting and the going rate of the hotel is in excess of the Federal per diem rate. If the hotel at the site of the convention, conference, seminar, or meeting is no longer available, lodging may be paid for similar accommodations at a rate not to exceed the hotel rate for the event;
3. Receipts are required for hotel expenses;
4. In any case in which the total per diem reimbursement is greater than the Federal per diem rate, except as stated in 2. above, the costs will be considered to be excessive and shall not be paid by school district funds;
5. The school district shall patronize hotels and motels that offer special rates to government employees unless alternative lodging offers greater cost benefits; and



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Board Member Travel Expenses

6. Payment or reimbursement is approved for the full cost of an official convention meal that a Board member attends, when the meal is scheduled as an integral part of the convention or conference proceedings. If a meal is included in the registration fee, the allowance for the meal is not eligible for reimbursement.

Annually in the pre-budget year, the Board shall establish by Board resolution, a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year, which the school district shall not exceed in that budget year. The Board resolution shall also include the maximum amount established for the pre-budget year and the amount spent to date. The maximum school district travel expenditure amount shall include all travel in accordance with P.L. 2007 c. 53 supported by local and State funds.

The Board may elect by Board resolution to exclude travel expenditures to be supported by Federal funds in the maximum travel expenditure amount. The Board resolution shall include the total amount of travel supported by Federal funds from the prior year, pre-budget year, and projected for the budget year.

The school district shall maintain separate accounting for school district travel expenditures as necessary to ensure compliance with the school district's maximum travel expenditure amount. This may include, but need not be limited to, a separate or offline accounting of such expenditures or expanding the school district's accounting system. The tracking system shall be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Board's policy and P.L. 2007 c. 53, and shall provide auditable information.

Any Board of Education that violates its established maximum travel expenditure as set forth in P.L. 2007 c. 53, or that otherwise is not in compliance with the travel limitations set forth in P.L. 2007 c. 53 may be subject to sanctions by the Commissioner as authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-23 and N.J.S.A. 18A:4-24, including reduction of State aid in an amount equal to any excess expenditure.

A person who approves any travel in violation of the P.L. 2007 c. 53 or this Policy shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event. An employee or Board member who travels in violation of the Board's policy or P.L. 2007 c. 53 shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event.

P.L. 2007 c. 53

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0147 Appendix A BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL EXPENSES

A. Approval of Travel Expense Reimbursement

The following procedure shall be implemented for a Board member seeking to receive travel expense reimbursement:

1. A Request for Travel Expense Report must be submitted to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary prior to the travel date(s) and at least fourteen days before a Board meeting. The request shall include supporting documentation to include: the type of travel; location of the travel; occurrences of the travel; date(s) of travel; and all related costs including transportation expenses, parking, tolls, lodging, registration fees, meals, and other expenses.
2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review the Request for Travel Expense Report to determine if the expenses as outlined in the supporting documentation are in compliance with State travel payment guidelines established by the Department of the Treasury and with guidelines established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget
 - a. If the requested travel expenses are in compliance with the guidelines the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will include the travel expense information on the Board of Education Approval of Travel Expense Form.
 - b. If any travel expenses are not in compliance with the guidelines the Board member will be informed the Board will only pay those expenses that are in compliance with the guidelines. In the event the Board member decides to pursue the travel, the Board member shall assume the financial responsibility for those travel expenses not in compliance with the guidelines. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will include a summary of this documentation on the Board of Education Approval of Travel Expense Form.
 - c. The Board of Education Approval of Travel Expense Form shall be presented to the Board of Education. Approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board at a Board meeting is required for approval.



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Board Member Travel Expenses

B. Reimbursement of Travel Expenses

All travel expenses that receive prior approval of the Board shall be reimbursed by the Board of Education in accordance with the following procedures:

1. The Board member, within fifteen calendar days after incurring the approved travel expenses, shall be required to submit to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary receipts documenting all prior Board approved travel expenses paid and/or incurred by the Board member during the travel. Reimbursement to the Board member will be made in accordance with the district's payment procedures. Travel payments will be paid only upon compliance with P.L. 2007 c. 53 and Policy 0147 provisions and approval requirements.
2. Receipts for the approved expenses to be paid directly to a vendor(s) accepting the school district purchase order will be obtained directly from the vendor by the Business office. Payments directly to a vendor will be made in accordance with the district's payment procedures.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



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Board Member Indemnification

0148 BOARD MEMBER INDEMNIFICATION

The Board of Education will indemnify Board members in accordance with law whenever a civil, administrative, criminal or quasi-criminal action or other legal proceeding is brought against a Board member for any act or omission arising out of and in the course of the performance of his/her duties as Board member. In the case of a criminal or quasi-criminal action which results in a final disposition in favor of the Board member, the Board will defray all costs of defending the action, including reasonable counsel fees and expenses, together with costs of appeal, and will save harmless and protect the Board member from any financial loss resulting from the action. Indemnification for exemplary or punitive damages is not required and will be governed by the standards and procedures set forth in N.J.S.A. 59:10-4.

The Board may arrange for and maintain appropriate insurance to cover all such damages, losses and expenses.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11.1; 18A:12-20; 18A:16-6;
18A:16-6.1; 18A:18A-46; 18A:18A-47

Adopted: 2 September 2008



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ORGANIZATION MEETING

0151 ORGANIZATION MEETING

The Board of Education shall organize annually at a regular meeting held in all Type II school districts with an April school election, on any day during the first or second week following the April school election or with a November school election, on any day of the first week in January.

If the organization meeting cannot take place on the date(s) above by reason of lack of quorum or for any other reason, said meeting shall be held within three days thereafter.

The meeting shall be called to order by the Board Secretary, who shall serve as presiding officer pro tempore until the election of a President.

The Board Secretary shall administer the oath of office to new Board members.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-3; 18A:10-5

N.J.S.A. 41:1-1; 41:1-3

N.J.S.A. 18A:13-12 et seq.

Adopted: 2 September 2008

Revised: 27 August 2013

0152 BOARD OFFICERS

The Board of Education shall organize at its first regular meeting by electing one of its members as President and another as Vice-President.

Any member may place a member's name in nomination; a second is not required. Election for each office will be conducted by a vote when the nominations for that office are closed. The candidate receiving a majority vote of the members of the Board present and constituting a quorum will be elected to office.

Voting shall take place by verbal roll call vote after nominations are closed. When more than one person has been nominated, the Board will vote on candidates in the order in which they were nominated. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of the members of the Board present and constituting a quorum, the procedure shall continue until someone receives a majority vote.

Officers shall serve for one year and until their respective successors are elected and shall qualify, but if the Board shall fail to hold the organization meeting or to elect Board officers as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1, the Executive County Superintendent shall appoint from among the members of the Board a President and/or Vice-President.

A President or Vice-President who refuses to perform a duty imposed upon him/her by law may be removed by a majority vote of the Board members present and constituting a quorum. In the event the office of President or Vice-President shall become vacant the Board shall, within thirty days thereafter, fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. If the Board fails to fill the vacancy within such time, the Executive County Superintendent shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1; 18A:15-2

Adopted: 2 September 2008
Revised: 16 February 2016

0153 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

The Board of Education may annually appoint the following positions:

1. A Board Secretary,
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-2, 17-5;
2. A medical inspector,
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1;
3. A member to serve as delegate to the New Jersey School Boards
Association,
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-46;
4. An attendance officer(s),
N.J.S.A. 18A:38-32;
5. A Treasurer of School Moneys,
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-31;
6. A member to serve as delegate to the Middlesex County School Boards
Association;
7. An attorney;
8. An insurance broker(s)/agent(s).

Adopted: 2 September 2008
Revised: 15 December 2015

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SPOTSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Annual Motions and Designations

0154 ANNUAL MOTIONS AND DESIGNATIONS

The Board of Education shall at the organizational meeting:

1. Designate one or more depositories for school funds, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34;
2. Designate those persons authorized to sign school warrants, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1;
3. Designate the official newspaper, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-11; 18A:39-3;
4. Designate a second newspaper for the publication of Board meetings, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8;
5. Designate the day, place, and time for regular meetings of the Board;
6. Approve the curriculum for all grades; and
7. Readopt existing bylaws and policies for the Board's operation and the operation of the school system.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0155 BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board of Education authorizes the creation of committees of Board members charged to conduct studies, make recommendations to the Board, and act in an advisory capacity. Committees are not authorized to take action on behalf of the Board.

The President shall appoint Board members to serve a one-year term on the following Board standing committees:

- Athletics
- Buildings/Grounds
- Communications
- Curriculum
- Finance/Audit/Policy
- Negotiations
- Special Education
- Security Liaison
- SEF Liaison
- PTA Liaison

An ad hoc committee may be created and charged at any time by the President or a majority of the Board members present and voting. The President shall appoint members to any committee so created and charged; members shall serve until the committee is discharged.

Committees shall consist of no more than two Board members, one of whom shall be the President, who shall serve as ex officio member on all Board committees. At no time will there be more than two members present at a committee meeting. If any committee meeting has more than two members present, the meeting must be advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. A member may request or refuse appointment to a committee; a member's refusal to serve on any one committee shall not prejudice his/her appointment to another committee.

The Board reserves the right to meet and work as a Committee of the Whole in informational, discussion, and exploratory sessions. No official action shall be taken at these meetings, unless so advertised.

A chairperson shall be appointed by the President.

Committee meetings may be called at any time by the committee chairperson or when a meeting is requested by a majority of the members of the committee.

Committee meetings shall not be open to the public, except that a majority of the committee or the chairperson may open the meeting to the public or invite persons whose knowledge or expertise may be useful to the committee.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0157 BOARD OF EDUCATION WEBSITE

For the purposes of keeping the community informed, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to coordinate and oversee a school district website to be maintained on the Internet. All items to be posted on the website shall be approved by the Supervisor of Technology, or designee, prior to posting. In the event the Supervisor of Technology finds certain material that is submitted to be posted, should not be posted, the Supervisor of Technology shall seek approval of the Superintendent prior to posting such material. In the event the Superintendent, upon review of the material from the Supervisor of Technology, believes the material should not be posted on the website, the material shall not be posted.

The types of information that may be posted on the website include, but are not limited to:

- Board Meeting public agendas
- Board Meeting approved minutes
- Selected Board of Education policies
- School District Newsletter Information
- Information regarding school times, closings, procedures, schedules
- School Administration Information
- Curriculum updates
- Job postings
- Test score information from the School Report Card
- School E-Mail information

and any other information the Superintendent determines appropriate for posting on the website.

Materials containing political or editorial points of view shall be prohibited from the website.

The Board and Superintendent shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the school district website and this Policy.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 2 September 2008



BYLAWS

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Call, Adjournment and Cancellation

0161 CALL, ADJOURNMENT AND CANCELLATION

The Board of Education shall meet in public session at least once every two months during the period in which the schools are in session.

All meetings shall be called to commence not later than 8:00 p.m. of the day designated.

A meeting not regularly scheduled may be called by the Board Secretary at the request of the President or upon the presentation to the Board Secretary of a petition requesting a meeting and signed by a majority of the full Board.

The Board may at any time recess or adjourn to an adjourned meeting at a time, date, and place announced before the adjournment takes place. The adjourned meeting shall take up its business at the point in the agenda where the motion to adjourn was passed.

When circumstances are such as to prevent the attendance of a majority or all of Board members or to frustrate the purpose of the meeting, a meeting may be canceled by the Board Secretary at the request of the President. Notice of the cancellation shall be given, by expedient means, to all Board members, to the Superintendent, and, whenever possible, to the newspapers in which notice of Board meetings is regularly given. If possible, written notice of the cancellation shall also be posted at the place where the canceled meeting was scheduled to occur. Notice of the cancellation shall include the date, time, and place of the next scheduled meeting. Notice of the cancellation shall be read at the next following Board meeting and shall be duly recorded in the official minute book.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0162 NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will give notice of all meetings in accordance with law.

Public Notice

The Board Secretary shall notify, in writing and no later than forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting, each Board member and each person who has duly requested such notification of the time, date, location, and, to the extent it is known, the agenda of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting. Forty-eight hour notice shall also be posted in the Board office, delivered to two newspapers designated by the Board, and filed with the clerk of the Borough of Spotswood, except that forty-eight hour notice is not required where the time, date, and location of the meeting has been published in the annual list of meetings approved by the Board in accordance with law.

Upon the affirmative vote of three-quarters of the members present, the Board may meet in the absence of adequate notice, provided that discussion and action is limited to specific and unforeseen or unforeseeable matters of such urgency and importance that delay for the provision of notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest and that notice is given as soon as possible after the call of the meeting in accordance with the provisions of law and this bylaw.

Personal Notice of Meeting

The Board shall provide personal notice in writing to an adult pupil, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a minor pupil, an employee or officer of this district, or a prospective employee whose privacy may be invaded or whose employment may be affected by the Board's deliberations in private session. Such personal notice will include the date and time of the private meeting, the subject or subjects scheduled for discussion at the private meeting, and the right of the individual given notice to request that the discussions be conducted at a public meeting. Personal notice will be given no less than seventy-two hours in advance of the private meeting.

A written request for public discussion must be signed by the person making the request and must be submitted to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. Any such properly submitted request will be granted. In the event that one or more, but fewer than all, of a group of persons whose employment will be discussed request a public meeting, the discussion regarding the person or persons who have submitted the request will be severed from the rest and will be conducted publicly.



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Notice of Board Meetings

A discussion held in public by reason of the written request of an individual will be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting for which annual notice has been given or at a meeting for which adequate public notice has been given in accordance with law.

Nothing in this bylaw will permit an employee to request or the Board to grant the public discussion of tenure charges or permit the public disclosure of information regarding a disabled pupil.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; 10:4-8d; 10:4-9b
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11; 18A:10-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0163 QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of three Board members, and no business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum, except when the Doctrine of Necessity is invoked.

In the event a quorum is not present at the hour of convening, the meeting may be recessed to a time not later than 9:00 p.m. of the same day. If a quorum is not then present, the members present may adjourn the meeting to a later date within seven days.

The Board of Education recognizes that there may be matters that come before the Board or acts required of Board members in their official capacity where the Board member may have a conflict of interest or the act would be in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24. In these matters, the Board member(s) will remove himself/herself from any discussions, meetings (informal or formal), committee meetings, and/or a vote regarding the matter. The Board will consider this matter without the Board member(s) who has the conflict.

In the event a matter comes before the Board or an act is required of a Board member in his/her official capacity that is a conflict or would be in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24, the Board would still be required to have a quorum to consider the matter. However, the New Jersey Department of Education and the School Ethics Commission has envisioned this prohibition could create a situation in which so many Board members have a conflict, that the Board would be unable to take action on a matter. Therefore, when more than a quorum of the Board members must abstain from voting on a matter, the Board will invoke the Doctrine of Necessity consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education and School Ethics Commission guidelines as follows:

A. Board Member(s) in Conflict - Less Than a Majority of The Board

1. In the event a Board member(s) has a conflict of interest where the Board member will act in his/her official capacity, the Board member must remove himself/herself from any discussions, meetings (informal or formal), committee meetings, and/or a vote regarding the matter.
2. In the event a Board member is unsure whether he/she or any other Board member has a conflict of interest or whether the matter, if acted upon by a Board member(s) is in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 - Prohibited Acts, the School Board Attorney will make a determination.
3. The School Board Attorney will provide the Board of Education an opinion on whether the matter is a conflict of interest or act prohibited by N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 - Prohibited Acts.



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Quorum

4. If the Board member(s) believes he/she has a conflict of interest where he/she will act in his/her official capacity or if the School Board Attorney renders an opinion that the Board member has a conflict of interest where the Board member will act in his/her official capacity, the Board member will remove himself/herself from any discussions, meetings (informal or formal), committee meetings, and/or a vote regarding the matter.
- B. A Majority of Board Members in Conflict
1. In the event:
 - a. A Board member(s) believes he/she has a conflict of interest where he/she will act in his/her official capacity; or
 - b. If the School Board Attorney renders an opinion that the Board member(s) has a conflict of interest where the Board member will act in his/her official capacity; and
 - c. The number of Board members that have a conflict would make it so the Board would be unable to take action on the matter, then the Board may invoke the “Rule [or Doctrine] of Necessity.” (Citing *U.S. v. Will*, 449 U.S. 200 (1980)).
- C. Rule [Or Doctrine] Of Necessity
1. The Doctrine of Necessity may be invoked when more than a quorum of the Board must abstain from voting on a matter.
 2. There are three prerequisites necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity:
 - a. The Board must be unable to act without the members in conflict taking part;
 - b. There must be a pressing need for action, i.e. the matter cannot be laid aside until another date; and
 - c. There can be no alternative forum that can grant the same relief. (*Allen v. Toms River Regional Board of Education*, 233 N.J. Super 651 (Law Division 1989)).



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Quorum

3. When the School Board Attorney advises the Board the Doctrine of Necessity must be invoked in order to obtain a quorum on a vote, the Board must announce that it is invoking the Doctrine.
 - a. The announcement must include the reason the Board must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity including stating the nature of each Board members conflict.
 - b. The announcement will be in writing and should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting by the Board Secretary at the point when the vote takes place.
 - c. It is enough for the Board to announce it is invoking the Doctrine and a Board Resolution is not required.
4. When the Board announces the Doctrine of Necessity is being invoked, the details, parameters and/or other pertinent facts of the matter to be voted should be revealed on an agenda for the public meeting in which the matter is to be voted upon.
5. The Board members who have a conflict in the matter are prohibited from:
 - a. Participating in any discussions on the matter prior to the announcement and public meeting; and
 - b. From entering an executive session in order to discuss the merits of the matter or contract; and
 - c. From offering their opinions on the matter at any time prior to the announcement and public meeting.
6. The Board members who have a conflict in the matter may only participate to the extent they may vote after the motion to approve and/or ratify the matter has been made and seconded and the Doctrine of Necessity has been thoroughly explained to the public.
7. Board members in conflict may only ask questions regarding the matter to be voted on in public and after the Board has invoked the Doctrine of Necessity.



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8. Board members in conflict may explain their reasons for not voting just before the vote.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24
New Jersey School Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion
A10-93(b) and A07-94

Adopted: 2 September 2008



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Conduct of Board Meetings

0164 CONDUCT OF BOARD MEETINGS

Parliamentary Authority

Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Board of Education in its deliberations and acts in all cases in which it is not inconsistent with statutes of the State of New Jersey, rules of the State Board of Education, or these bylaws.

Presiding Officer

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board. In the absence, disability, or disqualification of the President, the Vice President shall act in his/her place; if neither person is present, any member shall be designated by a plurality of those present to preside. The act of any person so designated shall be legal and binding.

Announcement of Adequate Notice

The person presiding shall commence each meeting with an announcement of the notice given for the meeting or a statement regarding the lack of adequate notice, in accordance with law.

Agenda

The Superintendent and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall prepare an agenda of items of business to come before the Board at each meeting. The agenda shall be delivered to each Board member no later than two days before the meeting and shall include such reports and supplementary materials as are appropriate and available.

The order of business shall be as follows:

- Call to order
- Flag Salute
- Roll call
- Superintendent's report
- Public participation
- Recommended action
- Executive Session
- For discussion
- Committee reports
- Correspondence
- For information
- Public participation
- Adjournment

N.J.S.A. 10:4-10

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0165 VOTING

All Board of Education actions requiring a vote may be conducted by voice, show of hands, or roll call provided that the vote of each member is recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Abstentions shall not be counted as votes but shall be recorded; a member who abstains from voting is deemed to acquiesce in the outcome of the vote.

All motions shall require for adoption the majority vote of Board members present and voting, except as provided by statutes of the State of New Jersey, this bylaw, or parliamentary authority and provided that the number of affirmative votes is at least a majority of the Board's quorum.

1. The affirmative votes of three-quarters of the members present are required for the conduct of a Board meeting when adequate notice has not been provided in accordance with law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-9;
2. A two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Board is required for:
 - a. Bids that have been advertised pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 on two occasions and;
 - (1) No bids have been received on both occasions in response to the advertisement; or
 - (2) The Board of Education has rejected such bids on two occasions because it has determined that they are not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates prepared for or by the Board of Education prior to the advertising therefore, or have not been independently arrived at in open competition; or
 - (3) On one occasion no bids were received pursuant to #(1) and on one occasion all bids were rejected pursuant to #(2), in whatever sequence; any such contract may then be negotiated.
 - b. Purchase of goods also available under state contract when the Board has received at least three quotations and the lowest responsible quotation is at least ten percent less than the price under the state contract for the identical goods and quantities, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5.e;



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- c. Determine that it is necessary, in a Type II school district having a Board of School Estimate, to sell bonds to raise money for any capital project, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-27; and
 - d. Sell bonds of a Type II district without further advertisement at private sale if no legally acceptable bid is received for the bonds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:24-45.
3. A majority vote of the full membership of the Board is required for:
- a. Admission after October 1 of a pupil who has never attended school, N.J.S.A. 18A:38-6;
 - b. Adoption or alteration of a course of study, N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1;
 - c. Application for membership in an established county audiovisual aid center, N.J.S.A. 18A:51-11;
 - d. Appointment of a Superintendent, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-15; School Business Administrator, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-14.1; Board Secretary, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-5; Assistant Board Secretary, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-13; Administrative Principals, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.5; and Shared Superintendent or School Business Administrator, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-24.3. Appointment and removal of Assistant Superintendent(s), N.J.S.A. 18A:17-16 and appointment, salary, and removal of Business Manager in Type I school district, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-25.
 - e. Appointment, transfer, removal and/or renewal of teaching/certificated and/or non-certificated staff members, N.J.S.A. 18A:25-1, 27-1;
 - f. Fix and determine, in a Type II district having no Board of School Estimate, the amount of money to be raised for budgets and capital construction, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-32, 22-39;
 - g. Approval of employee salary deductions for hospital and insurance plans and government bonds, N.J.S.A. 18A:16-8;
 - h. Authorization, in Type II school districts, of school bonds, N.J.S.A. 18A:24-10;



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- i. Decision to establish with other school districts a county audiovisual educational aid center, N.J.S.A. 18A:51-1;
 - j. Determination of sufficiency of charges warranting dismissal or reduction in salary of a tenured employee, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11;
 - k. Disposition or exchange of lands owned by the Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5, 20-8;
 - l. Purchase of bonds or other obligations as investments, N.J.S.A. 18A:20-37;
 - m. Removal of the President or Vice President of the Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:15-2;
 - n. Restoration or removal following suspension of an Assistant Superintendent, Principal, or teacher, N.J.S.A. 18A:25-6;
 - o. Selection of textbooks, N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1;
 - p. Withholding a salary increment, N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14;
 - q. Direct the Secretary of the Board to deduct salaries of employees to participate in any plan for the purchase of bonds of the United States government, N.J.S.A. 18A:16-8;
 - r. Appointment and salary of Executive Superintendent in district in city of the first class with a population over 325,000 have a unit control organizational structure.
4. A roll call vote of the Board is required for the following actions with the necessary vote as indicated:

Issue	Required Vote
a. Salary deductions for government bonds N.J.S.A. 18A:16-8	Majority of full Board



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Issue	Required Vote
b. Appointment of a secretary of Board of Education; terms; compensation; vacancy N.J.S.A. 18A-17-5	Majority of full Board
c. Assistant and acting secretaries; appointment, powers and duties N.J.S.A. 18A:17-13	Majority of full Board
d. Appointment of Superintendents; terms; apportionment of expense N.J.S.A. 18A:17-15	Majority of full Board
e. Appointment and removal of Assistant Superintendents N.J.S.A. 18A:17-16	Majority of full Board
f. Appointment of Administrative Principals N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.5	Majority of full Board
g. Appointment of shared Superintendent, School Business Administrator; terms N.J.S.A. 18A:17-24.3	Majority of the membership of each Board
h. Appointment; salary; removal of Business Managers N.J.S.A. 18A:17-25	Majority of full Board
i. Unit control organizational structure; Executive Superintendent N.J.S.A. 18A:17A-1	Majority of full Board
j. Disposition of property N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5	Majority of full Board
k. Exchange of lands N.J.S.A. 18A:20-8	Majority of full Board



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Issue	Required Vote
l. Type II districts with Board of School Estimate; determination; certification and raising of appropriations; notice of appeal N.J.S.A. 18A:22-26	Majority of full Board
m. Type II districts with Boards of School Estimate; estimate by Board of Education; certification of estimate N.J.S.A. 18A:22-27	Two thirds of full membership of Board
n. Determination of amounts by Board of School Estimate N.J.S.A. 18A:22-31	Board of School Estimate majority of full Board
o. Type II districts without Board of School Estimate; determination and certification of appropriation N.J.S.A. 18A:22-32	Majority of full Board
p. Type II districts without Board of School Estimate; submission of capital projects N.J.S.A. 18A:22-39	Majority of full Board
q. School bonds, when deemed to be authorized Type II. N.J.S.A 18A:24-10	Majority of full Board
r. Private sale if no bids at public sale N.J.S.A. 18A:24-45	Two thirds of full membership of Board
s. Transfer of teaching staff member N.J.S.A. 18A:25-1	Majority of full Board
t. Suspension of Assistant Superintendents, Principals and teaching staff members N.J.S.A. 18A:25-6	Majority of membership



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	Issue	Required Vote
u.	Appointment of teaching staff members; vote required N.J.S.A. 18A:27-1	Majority of full Board
v.	Board of Education, procedure for certain personnel actions; recommendation of Chief School Administrator N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1	Majority of full Board
w.	Renewal of personnel N.J.S.A. 18A:27-	Majority of full Board
x.	Withholding increments; causes notice appeals N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14	Majority of full Board
y.	District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1	Majority of full Board
z.	Textbooks; selection; furnished free with supplies; appropriations N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1	Majority of full Board
aa.	Single county educational audiovisual aids center in county N.J.S.A. 18A:51-11	Majority of full membership

N.J.S.A. 10:4-14

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0166 EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

The Board of Education may meet in a private session only to discuss and act on issues exempted by law from the requirement that all Board meetings be public and only after the adoption at a public meeting of a resolution stating the general nature of the subject or subjects to be discussed and, as precisely as possible, the time when and circumstances under which the discussion conducted in private session can be disclosed to the public.

The Board may exclude the public only from that portion of a meeting at which the Board discusses:

1. Any matter that has been rendered confidential by express provision of federal or state law or rule of court;
2. Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States;
3. Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of a pupil's privacy, including but not limited to records, data, reports, or recommendations relative to the pupil's personal and family circumstances, treatment, progress or condition, unless the adult pupil or the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requests in writing that the same be disclosed publicly;
4. Any Collective Bargaining Agreement, or the terms and conditions that are proposed for inclusion in any Collective Bargaining Agreement, including the negotiation of the agreement with school district employees or representatives of employees;
5. Any matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds or the investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;
6. Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public when their disclosure could impair such protection and any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;
7. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than as stated in #4 in which the Board is or may become a party and any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his/her ethical duties as a lawyer;



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Executive Sessions

8. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the Board, unless the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting, except that, regardless of the employee's request, the consideration and actions of the Board as to any tenure charge shall be conducted in private session;
9. Any deliberations occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of the responding party's certification as a result of an act or omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; 10:4-13

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0167 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public comment at every regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in Board Bylaw No. 0164.

Public participation shall be extended to residents of this district, persons having a legitimate interest in the actions of this Board, persons representing groups in the community or school district, representatives of firms eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board, and employees and pupils of this district, except when the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation by an alternate method provided for in policies or contracts of the Board.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;
2. The presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to five minutes' duration.
3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard;
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;
5. The presiding officer may:
 - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;



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Public Participation in Board Meetings

- c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
- d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
- e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Adopted: 2 September 2008



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SPOTSWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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RECORDING BOARD MEETINGS

0168 RECORDING BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education directs the creation and maintenance of an official record of the formal proceedings of the Board and will permit the unofficial recording of Board meetings in accordance with this bylaw.

Minutes

The Board shall keep reasonably comprehensible minutes of all its meetings showing the time and place, the members present, the subject considered, the actions taken, the vote of each member, information sufficient to explain the actions taken, and any other information required to be shown in the minutes by law.

Minutes of public meetings shall be public records signed by the Board Secretary and filed in the Board Secretary's office in a minute book as the permanent record of the acts of this Board.

Minutes of executive meetings shall be filed in the Board Secretary's office in a place separate from the minute book until the time, if any, when the proceedings may be made public. At that time, the minutes shall be public records and shall be filed in the regular minute book.

The Board Secretary shall provide each Board member with a copy of the minutes prior to Board approval.

Recording by the Public

A member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board provided the audio or video recording process complies with reasonable guidelines as outlined in this Bylaw. These guidelines are adopted to ensure the recording of the public meeting does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of video recording devices only when notice of such intended use has been given to the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting. The Board Secretary or designee shall review the video recording guidelines with the person requesting to video record. Prior notice is not required to audio record a meeting.

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RECORDING BOARD MEETINGS

All audio and video recording devices shall be silent in operation, inoffensive, and unobtrusive. Any video recording device must be located and operated from inconspicuous locations in the meeting room as determined by the presiding officer of the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the presiding officer will determine the location of each recording device so the video recording device can video record the meeting with an unobstructed view. The presiding officer may permit a person wanting to video record the meeting using a small hand-held video recording device to sit with their video recording device in the public seating area of the meeting room provided the person recording and/or the recording device is not distracting or obtrusive to the meeting. A person that wants to audio record a public meeting shall sit with their audio recording device in the public seating area of the meeting room and shall not be distracting or obtrusive to the meeting. Additional lighting shall not be used unless approved by the presiding officer prior to the meeting. All recording devices must be battery operated, as the district cannot guarantee convenient availability or location of electric outlets in the meeting room.

The presiding officer shall determine when the number of video recording devices or if an audio or video ~~any~~ recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed or relocated. The presiding officer may also limit the number of video recording devices if he/she determines the number and positioning of the video recording devices will be an unnecessary intrusion to the meeting. In this event, preference will be given based on the order in which prior notice requesting to record the meeting was provided to the Board Secretary.

Any person who video records a public meeting in accordance with the provisions of this Policy shall provide the Board the opportunity to obtain a copy of the recording at the Board's expense, but the Board shall have no power to edit or abridge the original recording.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-14

Adopted: 2 September 2008

Revised: 3 April 2012

0169 BOARD MEMBER USE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL/INTERNET

The Board of Education is a public body as defined in the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.A.C. 10:4-6 et seq., and the Board and its members are required to comply with the provisions of this Act. It is the right of the public to be present at meetings of public bodies and to witness in full all phases of the deliberations, policy formulation, and decision-making. Board members acknowledge certain discussions between Board members, other than during a Board meeting, may be subject to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Board of Education is also subject to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. The Open Public Records Act requires public agencies/School Boards to make certain governmental records subject to public access. Board members may, by written and/or electronic mail (e-mail), communicate with each other and with certain school staff regarding the school district's public business. "Public business" means and includes all matters that relate in any way, directly or indirectly, to the performance of the public body's functions or the conduct of its business. Board members acknowledge these written communications may be classified as a governmental record and may be subject to public access pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

In order to ensure the Board and/or individual Board members comply with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act, the following guidance is provided regarding certain discussions and written communications regarding the public business:

1. Written letters, e-mails, and supporting documents regarding school district matters written by Board members to other Board members or written by Board members to school staff, unless the subject matter is specifically exempt under the Open Public Records Law, are governmental records and are subject to public access. Based on the potential for improper/inappropriate disclosure and/or breach of confidentiality that may compromise the Board or Board member, these communications should not involve confidential matters, especially any matter the Board may discuss in executive/private session outside the presence of the public pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. Written letters, internet (chat) discussions, e-mails, and supporting documents regarding the school district's public business written by Board members to other Board members shall not replace deliberations that would prevent the public from witnessing in full detail all phases of the Board's deliberations, policy formulation, and decision-making process in accordance with the intent of the Open Public Meetings Act.



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Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet

3. Internet (chat) discussions between Board members regarding the school district's public business shall not include multiple Board members with the potential that a quorum of the Board may be involved, or become involved, in such discussion.

In the event a Board member(s) fails to comply with the guidance of this Policy, the matter shall be referred to the Board President, who will meet and/or discuss the matter and this Policy with the Board member(s). The Board President may request the Board Attorney participate in this meeting and/or discussion.

N.J.S.A. 10:6-4 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



DUTIES OF BOARD PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

0171. DUTIES OF BOARD PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

The President of the Board of Education shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Board;
2. Require the Board Secretary to call special meetings of the Board, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1;
3. Sign all school district warrants, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1;
4. Certify to all payrolls, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-9;
5. Subscribe bonds, notes, contracts, and other legal instruments for which the signature of the President is required, N.J.S.A. 18A:24-32;
6. Issue subpoenas to compel attendance of witnesses and production of documents, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-20;
7. Appoint all committees of the Board;
8. Serve as committee member ex-officio in accordance with Board Bylaw 0155;

The Vice President shall assume and discharge the duties of the President in the President's absence, disability, or disqualification. N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1

Adopted: 2 September 2008

Revised: 19 April 2011

0172 DUTIES OF TREASURER OF SCHOOL MONIES

The Treasurer of School Monies shall:

1. Receive and hold in trust all school monies, except monies from athletic events and pupil organization activities, and deposit them in the bank or banks designated by the Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34;
2. Pay out school monies only on warrants made payable to the person entitled to receive payment and specifying the object for which it is issued and signed by the President, Secretary and Treasurer, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1;
3. Receive school employee payrolls and a warrant for the full amount of each payroll certified by the President and Secretary, deposit the warrants in a separate payroll account, and issue individual checks drawn on such account to each employee, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-9, 19-10;
4. Give public notice when funds are on hand for payment of interest bearing warrants issued for which no funds were available, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-12;
5. Keep a record of monies received and paid out in books provided for that purpose and in accordance with a bookkeeping system prescribed by the State Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-35;
6. Pay over the balance of school funds on hand to his/her successor, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-35;
7. Render a monthly report to the Board giving a detailed account of all receipts, the amounts of all warrants issued, the accounts from which they were drawn and the balance in each account, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36;
8. Render an annual report showing the amounts received and disbursed by him/her during the school year and file a copy with the County Superintendent, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36; and
9. Receive the proceeds of any bond sale and disburse them only to pay the expenses of issuing and selling the bonds, the purpose for which the bonds were issued, and the temporary investment of the funds, N.J.S.A. 18A:24-47.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0173. DUTIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

The Board will engage only a licensed public school accountant to conduct the annual audit in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq. The accountant must have an external peer/quality report performed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(i)1, unless the accountant or firm can show good cause as to why there was a delay completing such report within the required timelines established by Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The Board will require the submission of the most recent external peer/quality report for review and evaluation prior to the appointment of the licensed public school accountant. The Board will acknowledge the receipt, review, and evaluation of the external peer/quality report in the public session and Board minutes in which the accountant or firm to perform the audit is engaged.

The Board will require the submission of an updated external peer/quality report of the accountant within thirty days after the issuance date of the external peer/quality report if the report is issued prior to the date of the audit opinion for the most recent fiscal year.

In accordance with NJOMB Circular Letter 98-07, the public school accountant will provide a copy of the most recent external peer/quality report to the Department of Education, within thirty days after the initial engagement by the Board and within thirty days after the issuance of a subsequent peer/quality report.

The Board shall engage a public school accountant during the audit engagement period for non-auditing, management, or other consulting services only if such services comply with the independent standards as established in Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book) by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The Board may be prohibited for good cause by the Commissioner of Education from engaging a particular licensed public school accountant, or may be directed by the Commissioner on a process to be used in the appointment of a licensed public school accountant pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(i)4.

The public school accountant will complete the annual audit as required by the Department of Education and N.J.S.A. 18A:23-2. Each annual audit shall include an audit of the books, accounts and moneys, and verification of all cash and bank balances of the Board and of any officer or employee and of moneys derived from athletic events or other activities of any organization of pupils conducted under the auspices of the Board, from the date of the last annual audit to the date of the current audit. The audit will also include a determination of the extent to which the district used contracts entered into by the State Division of Purchase and Property pursuant to P.L. 1969 c. 104 (C. 52:25-16.1 et seq.) in the purchase of materials, supplies or

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Duties of Public School Accountant

equipment for the district. The report of each audit will be completed not later than four months after the end of the school fiscal year as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 and will be filed by the public school accountant in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-2.3.

Within thirty days following receipt of the report the Board, at a regularly scheduled public meeting, will cause the recommendations of the accountant to be read and discussed and the discussion will be duly noted in the Board meeting minutes in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-5. The Board Secretary will prepare or have prepared a summary of the annual audit for this Board meeting in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-4.

N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 6830

Adopted: 2 September 2008

Revised: 15 February 2011

0174 LEGAL SERVICES M

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2, the Board of Education adopts this Policy and its strategies to ensure the use of legal services by employees and the Board of Education members and the tracking of the use of legal services.

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as designated contact persons to request services or advice from contracted legal counsel.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible to review all legal bills and confer with designated contact persons in reviewing such legal bills.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)2, the Board designates the administrative staff member to review all legal bills and designates contact persons to ensure the prudent use of legal services.

School districts with legal costs that exceed one hundred thirty percent of the Statewide average per pupil amount should establish the procedures outlined in 1., 2., 3., and 4. below and, if not established, provide evidence such procedures would not result in a reduction of costs.

1. The designated contact person(s) shall ensure that contracted legal counsel is not contacted unnecessarily for management decisions or readily available information contained in district materials such as Board policies, administrative regulations, or guidance available through professional source materials.
2. All requests for legal advice shall be made to the designated contact person(s) in writing and shall be maintained on file in the district offices. The designated contact person shall determine whether the request warrants legal advice or if legal advice is necessary.
3. The designated contact person(s) shall maintain a log of all legal counsel contact including the name of the legal counsel contacted, date of the contact, issue discussed, and length of contact.
4. All written requests for legal advice and logs of legal counsel contacts shall be forwarded to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who shall be responsible to review all legal bills and compare all legal bills to the contact logs and to investigate and resolve any variances.

Any professional services contract(s) for legal services shall prohibit advance payments. Services to be provided shall be described in detail in the contract and invoices for payment shall itemize the services provided for the billing period. Payments to legal counsel(s) shall only be for services actually provided.

School districts and vocational school districts are prohibited from contracting with legal counsel or using in-house legal counsel to pursue any affirmative claim or cause of action on behalf of district administrators and/or any individual Board members or pursuing any claim or cause of action for which the damages to be awarded would benefit an individual rather than the school district as a whole.

The Board of Education will annually establish prior to budget preparation, a maximum dollar limit for each type of professional service, including legal services. In the event it becomes necessary to exceed the established maximum dollar limit for the professional service, the Superintendent of Schools shall recommend to the Board of Education an increase in the maximum dollar amount. Any increase in the maximum dollar amount shall require formal Board action.

Contracts for legal services will be issued by the Board in a deliberative and efficient manner that ensures the district receives the highest quality services at a fair and competitive price or through a shared service arrangement. This may include, but is not limited to, issuance of such contracts through a Request for Proposals (RFP) based on cost and other specified factors or other comparable processes. Contracts for legal services shall be limited to non-recurring or specialized work for which the district does not possess adequate in-house resources or in-house expertise to conduct.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2

Adopted: 2 September 2008
Revised: 2 March 2010

0175 CONTRACTS WITH INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS

The Board of Education may from time to time engage the services of one or more independent contractors to advise and assist the Board in analyzing school district operations and preparing Board reports when those tasks cannot be performed as economically by district staff members.

Wherever possible, the Board will seek proposals from multiple sources before a contract with an independent consultant is entered. The Board will not contract with a Board member or the spouse, child, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or sibling, in fact or in law, of a Board member as an independent consultant.

The Board will engage the services of an independent consultant only by written contract, which must specify the work to be accomplished by the consultant, the time within which the work is to be completed, and the fee that will be paid the consultant. An independent consultant engaged by the Board is neither agent nor employee of the Board and may represent the Board only as expressly authorized to do so in writing.

An independent consultant may have access to such school facilities and school district employees as may be reasonably required in the performance of the consultant's contract with the Board. Except as expressly permitted by the contract, any communication between the consultant and a district employee or community member regarding the work of the contract must be conducted through the Board or a designated school official.

Materials and reports generated and created by the independent consultant in the performance of his/her contract with the Board are and will remain the property of the Board and are subject to Board Policy No. 8310 on public records.

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0176 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND CONTRACT APPROVAL/RATIFICATION

The Board recognizes a Board member and/or a member of his/her immediate family may be a member of, or salary is determined by, a labor bargaining unit, professional association and/or union that has an affiliation with a bargaining unit, professional organization and/or union within the school district. The Board member does not automatically violate N.J.S.A. 18A:24 by voting to approve and/or ratify this contract solely on the basis of his/her status or that of an immediate family member with respect to membership or representation by a different local affiliate of the same statewide association with whom the agreement is made provided the Board member's involvement with such local affiliate has not or appears to have not compromised the member's objectivity or independence of judgment.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24, the Board member shall not participate in the collective bargaining process and/or serve on the negotiations committee representing the Board with this unit, association, and/or union. The Board member may be apprised of the terms of a tentative memorandum of agreement with this unit, association, and/or union in closed and/or open session only after a tentative memorandum of agreement has been reached. The Board member may vote during the public meeting to approve and/or ratify a contract with this bargaining unit, professional association and/or union.

The Board member shall not participate in any aspect of negotiations and/or vote to approve/ratify a tentative memorandum of agreement/contract ratification if the Board member has an immediate family who is a member of the bargaining unit, professional association and/or union within the school district. Under this circumstance, the Board member may only vote in the event the school Board attorney advises the Board the Doctrine of Necessity must be invoked in accordance with Policy No. 0163.

In addition, the School Ethics Commission Decision A16-00 states a Board member may not participate in any aspect of negotiations and/or vote to approve/ratify a tentative memorandum of agreement/contract ratification if the Board member has a "relative" who is a member of the bargaining unit, professional association and/or union within the school district. Under this circumstance, the Board member may only vote in the event the school Board attorney advises the Board the Doctrine of Necessity must be invoked in accordance with Policy No. 0163.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et. seq.

New Jersey School Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion A02-00 and A16-00

Commissioner of Education Decision - In the Matter of Bruce White, Ewing Township Board of Education, Mercer County - June 1, 2000

New Jersey State Board of Education Decision - In the Matter of Frank Pannucci, Board of Education of Brick Township, Ocean County - March 3, 2000

Adopted: 2 September 2008



0177 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES M

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2, the Board of Education adopts this Policy and its strategies to minimize the cost of professional services.

The Board of Education will establish annually prior to budget preparation a maximum dollar limit for each type of professional service. In the event it becomes necessary to exceed the established maximum dollar limit for the professional services, the Superintendent of Schools shall recommend to the Board of Education an increase in the maximum dollar amount. Any increase in the maximum dollar amount shall require formal Board action.

Contracts for professional services will be issued by the Board in a deliberative and efficient manner that ensures the district receives the highest quality services at a fair and competitive price or through a shared service arrangement. This may include, but is not limited to, issuance of such contracts through a Request for Proposals (RFP) based on cost and other specified factors or other comparable processes. Contracts for professional services shall be limited to non-recurring or specialized work for which the district does not possess adequate in-house resources or in-house expertise to conduct.

Nothing in this Policy or N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 shall preclude the Board from complying with the requirements of any statute, administrative code, or regulation for the award of professional services contracts.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2

Adopted: 2 September 2008
Revised: 2 March 2010