

HEMINGFORD BOARD POLICY MANUAL

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POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

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

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

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

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

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

It is the responsibility of the board, under the board's executive duty, to select its chief executive officer, the superintendent, to operate the school district on the board's behalf. All references to "superintendent" in this policy manual shall mean the "superintendent or the superintendent's designee" unless otherwise stated in the board policy. The board delegates to the superintendent its authority to carry out board policy, to formulate and carry out rules and regulations and to handle the administrative details in a manner which supports and is consistent with board policy. The board may enter into certain contracts as permitted by law for periods not to exceed four years.

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

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-261 to 263
 79-501 to 524
 79-734
 NDE Rule 10.004.01

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

Cross Reference

- 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
- 104 Educational and Operational Planning
- 205 School Board Policy Process
- 301.03 Succession of Authority to the Superintendent
- 601 Goals and Objectives of Instructional Plan

GUIDELINES FOR BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT OPERATIONS

Limits of Authority of the Board

AUTHORITY LIMITS:

All actions of the board shall be taken only in official board meetings called, scheduled and conducted according to the bylaws of the Board of Education and the laws of the State of Nebraska.

Individual members of the board should avoid making decisions as an individual or group outside legal board meetings that will commit the board or district to a particular course of action. Requests for board action presented to board members outside of regular board meetings should be accepted without comment or commitment by the board member. A board member may direct the complainant to take up the issue with the proper school official if they have not already done so. Those making the requests should be directed to address the Board of Education as a whole at a regular board meeting. Only after an issue or problem has been presented to the entire Board of Education, and all sides to such issue or problem have been presented, and the logic involved has been considered by all members, will board members make individual commitments.

It shall be the policy of all board members to inform employees to consult with their immediate supervisor for instructions. No board member will give instructions or indicate what he or she thinks the superintendent's instructions should be on any specific issue or problem. Employees who approach board members with grievances will be instructed to consult with their immediate supervisor, and, if necessary, arrangements will be made for employees to meet with the entire board to air their grievances. Employees must make those arrangements with the superintendent of schools through the district's grievance policy.

An exception to this policy is in order whenever the board in an official meeting has expressly appointed a particular board member, or committee of board members, with specific authority to act on behalf of the board. The primary responsibility of the Board of Education is a legislative one under which it provides a framework for the operation and maintenance of the school system and delegates the administrative authority to carry out these policies to the superintendent and staff.

Superintendent's Memo of Understanding

1. Board Meetings

- 1.1. In the materials submitted to board members prior to a board meeting, the Superintendent shall present all relevant information (including both the information that supports his recommendations and that which does not.)
- 1.2. With regard to any action items on the agenda, the Superintendent shall inform the Board of the viable options or alternatives, if any, which may exist.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

- 1.3. Neither the Superintendent nor any of the board members shall engage in any of the following tactics at board meetings:
 - 1.3.1. Disclosing “surprise” information that could have been shared with others prior to the meeting
 - 1.3.2. Asking “surprise” questions designed to “catch someone off-guard” or embarrass them rather than to seek clarification or additional information
 - 1.3.3. Bringing up “surprise” items (other than emergency items) for discussion when such items are not on the agenda
 - 1.4. A list of all bills will be available to board members prior to the meeting. The board members may review those bills and call or conference with the Superintendent with any questions they may have prior to arriving for the board meeting.
2. Complaints
 - 2.1. The complaints are brought to board members, the board members will listen to the complaint, but, will direct the complainant to the appropriate level in the chain of authority in the school system. The board member will not offer or agree to become an advocate for the complainant or commit to taking any action on the complaint.
 - 2.2. If the complainant has exhausted his/her administrative remedies (including having presented his/her complaint to the Superintendent), the board member shall direct the complainant to reduce his/her complaint to writing and submit it to the president of the Board. The president of the board shall provide a copy of the written complaint to the Superintendent and review it with him/her. After conferencing with Superintendent, the president shall decide whether or not the complaint is a matter that warrants board consideration. If so, he/she shall place the matter on an upcoming board agenda. If not, he/she shall so notify the complainant.
 - 2.3. Notwithstanding any provisions above to the contrary, any complaints involving allegations of personal or professional misconduct on the part of the Superintendent shall be directed to the president of the Board.
 3. Hiring Practices
 - 3.1. The Superintendent shall be responsible for the recruiting, screening, and interviewing processes for all employment vacancies in the district. He/she shall recommend candidates for employment in the District. The board of education shall decide whether or not to accept the recommendation.
 - 3.2. If the board of education does not accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Superintendent shall submit a different recommendation at a subsequent meeting of the board.
 - 3.3. No member of the board shall lobby the superintendent to recommend a relative, friend, acquaintance, or any other candidate for any position of employment with the District. It shall not be considered a violation of this Paragraph if a candidate lists a board member as a reference in his/her application for employment.

4. Employee Job Performance Reviews (Evaluations)
 - 4.1. The Superintendent and his/her designee(s) shall be responsible for conducting job performance review (evaluations) for all employees in the District (except the Superintendent). The board of education shall be responsible for the job performance review of the Superintendent.
 - 4.2. No individual board member shall request to examine any employee's job performance reviews or request an administrator to discuss an employee's evaluation with them. The board as a whole, however, may, in closed session and with a majority of the members voting in favor of such, examine the job performance reviews of employees.
 - 4.3. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph, if the Superintendent and/or his/her designee(s) are considering non-renewal, dismissal, or disciplinary action against an employee and the employee has a statutory or contractual right to have the Superintendent's decision or recommendation reviewed by the board, members of the board shall not request to examine such employees job performance reviews until such matters have been concluded and the time for an appeal to the board has expired.
 - 4.4. The board shall have a legitimate educational purpose for examining job performance reviews. In no event will the board examine job performance reviews simply out of curiosity or for personal reasons.
 - 4.5. No board member shall disclose, discuss, or in any way communicate the contents of any job performance review with anyone other than another board member or the Superintendent.

5. Purchases
 - 5.1. The Superintendent shall have the responsibility of operating the school system within the overall limits of the approved budget.
 - 5.2. Once the budget is approved, the Superintendent shall have the authority and discretion to approve all purchases of goods, materials, and services which he/she believes are necessary or desirable for the operation of the school district.
 - 5.3. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Superintendent shall present the following purchases for prior board approval:
 - 5.3.1. The purchase of a new textbook series in any curriculum area. Prior approval shall not be required for the routine replacement of damaged or lost textbooks nor the purchase of necessary additional copies of a current textbook series.
 - 5.3.2. The purchase or lease of new vehicles.
 - 5.3.3. The purchase of any item or expenditure that exceeds \$5,000 unless that expenditure was contemplated and discussed during the budget development process. If time is of the essence, the purchase may be made but reported at the next meeting. This exemption would only apply to replacement of existing equipment. Purchases of new or additional equipment are not exempt from this requirement.

6. School "Visits"
 - 6.1. In order to avoid creating channels of communication around the Superintendent and, thus, reducing his/her effectiveness as the leader of the school system, board members will visit schools and seek direct communication with employees only under a systematic plan mutually agreed to by and between the Board and the Superintendent.
 - 6.2. The preceding provision shall not apply to activities open to the public or visits where the board member is acting solely in his/her role as a parent of a student.

7. Micro-Management
 - 7.1. No member of the Board (nor the Board as a whole) shall become involved in micromanagement of District operations.
 - 7.2. "Micro-management" shall mean becoming actively involved in matters that are not policy-related in nature or that are not specifically required of the board by law.
 - 7.3. The primary responsibility of the Board shall be to formulate and adopt policies. The primary responsibility of the Superintendent shall be to implement and enforce such policies and to administer the day-to-day operations of the District.
 - 7.4. No individual board member will give directions or orders to the Superintendent or any other employees of the District.
 - 7.5. Board members shall not call (or have someone else call) the Superintendent out of conferences or meetings except for emergency situations (unless requested to do so by the Superintendent.)

8. Board Policies
 - 8.1. The Superintendent shall assist the Board with reviewing and revising its policies on a regular basis.
 - 8.2. When situations arise which are not covered by Board policy, the Superintendent shall have the authority to take whatever action he/she believes to be best under the circumstances.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP - ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The annual school election takes place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even numbered years. The terms shall be staggered so that three board members are elected at each general election. The newly elected members shall be seated on the board in January following the election in November. School District #10 is divided into three wards for the selection of candidates for the election. If more than two candidates file for election in one ward, the number of candidates will be reduced to two through the primary election. The election in November will be at large with all voters within District #10 voting for one member from each ward. All elections will follow the election statutes of the State of Nebraska.

The Wards are as follows:

Ward A: All of the district west of a north-south line along the section lines running north and south of a point one mile west of the center of the Village of Hemingford, AKA, Box Butte Avenue, Hemingford, NE.

Ward B: All of the district outside the Village of Hemingford corporate limits not included in Ward A.

Ward C: All of the district within the corporate limits of the Village of Hemingford. Incumbents must file for election at the office of the County Clerk, Box Butte County, by February 15 prior to the date of the primary election. All other candidates must file for election by March 1 prior to the date of the primary election.

If a vacancy occurs on the board it may be filled within 45 days by appointment of a qualified registered voter by the remaining members of the board for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the board does not fill the vacancy by appointment, the vacancy may be filled by election at a special election or school district meeting called for that purpose. If a majority of the offices of the school board members are vacant, the Secretary of State will call a special school district election to fill the vacancies.

It is prohibited to meet in closed session for discussion of the appointment or election of a new board member.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-501 et seq.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

QUALIFICATIONS

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

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

Persons wanting to run for a position on the board must be a resident of the school district, an eligible elector of the district and free from a financial conflict of interest with the position. No member of a school board may be engaged in a contract to teach by the school district on which board he or she serves.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-543, 544

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 201.06 Vacancies
 202.01 Board Member Conflict of Interest

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

OATH OF OFFICE

Board members are public officials, and as such they may wish to pledge to uphold the Nebraska and the United States Constitution and carry out the responsibilities of the office to the best of the board member's ability.

Each school board member before entering upon their respective duties may be given the following oath of office at the first meeting attended as an elected member. The superintendent shall administer this oath of office.

"I, ...(name)..., do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservation or for purpose of evasion; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of the Hemingford School District #10 Board of Education according to law, and to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence; and that during such time as I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence. So help me God."

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 11-101
 Frans v. Young, Nebraska (1890)

Cross Reference: 101 Legal Status of the School District
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment
 202.01 Board Member Code of Ethics

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

TERM OF OFFICE

Board members nominated by primary election and elected by general election will serve for four years. Board members appointed to fill a vacant position will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

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

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-543, 570

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

VACANCIES

A vacancy occurs when a board member resigns, forfeits or otherwise leaves the office. A vacancy also includes, but is not limited to, the following: failure to elect at an election when there is no incumbent to continue in office until his or her successor is elected and qualified, failure to reside in the school district or a continuous absence from the district of more than 60 days, absence from more than 2 consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members of the board, death of the incumbent, a court order declaring the seat vacant, conviction of a felony, or any public offense in violation of the oath of office.

The resignation of a member or any other reason for a vacancy shall be made a part of the minutes of the school board. The board shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term in writing to the election commissioner or county clerk, and by a notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district.

It is prohibited to meet in closed session for discussion of the appointment or election of a new board member.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-560 et seq.
 32-1308
 84-1410(1)(d)

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment
 201.03 Qualifications

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER LIABILITY

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

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

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-516

Cross Reference: 805.01 Insurance

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

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

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

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER:

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

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY:

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

IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT AND EMPLOYEES:

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

TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER SCHOOL BOARDS:

1. I will not employ a superintendent, principal or teacher who is already under contract with another school district without first securing assurance from the proper authority that the person can be released from contract.
2. I will consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a neighboring board or its representatives.
3. I will not recommend an employee for a position in another school district unless I would employ the individual under similar circumstances.
4. I will answer all inquiries about the standing and ability of an employee to the best of my knowledge and judgment, with complete frankness.
5. I will associate myself with board members of other school districts for the purpose of discussing school district issues and cooperating in the improvement of the education program.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 202.02 Board Member Conflict of Interest

BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

No voting board member may have an interest in any contract to which the district, or anyone for its benefit, is party. The prohibition applies when the board member or the board member's immediate family is a partner, director, officer, or is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth one thousand dollars or more at fair market value or which represents more than a five per cent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. An individual who occupies a confidential professional relationship protected by law is exempt from this policy. This policy does not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account.

The above prohibition does not apply if the voting board member:

1. Supplies a written statement describing the matter up for decision and the nature of the conflict to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, the Superintendent and to the board secretary. The secretary shall enter the statement onto the public records of the district.
2. The board member must take such action as the Commission advises to remove himself or herself from influence over the decision.
3. Does not vote on the matter of granting the contract, except if the number of members of the board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board, with all members present, from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matter and this action will be reported to the commission; and
4. Does not act for the district to inspect, supervise or determine the performance of contracts under which he or she has an interest.

A board member who is an employee of a business involved in a contract with the district and who has no ownership interest or will receive no direct fee or commission shall not be deemed to have an interest within the meaning of this policy. The receiving of deposits, cashing of checks and buying and selling of warrants and bonds of indebtedness of any school district by a financial institution will not be considered an interest in the contract under this policy.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

If a board member's immediate family member is an employee of the school district, the member may vote on all issues of the contract which are generally applicable to all employees or all employees within a classification and do not single out his or her family member for special action.

Any contract entered into with an interested board member shall be subject to applicable competitive bidding requirements and shall be fair and reasonable to the school district.

A voting board member or district employee may employ, recommend the employment of, or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if he or she does not abuse his or her official position and makes a full disclosure of the relationship to the board and a written disclosure of the relationship to the board secretary. No board member or administrator shall employ an immediate family member without first having made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment. The family member must be qualified for, able to perform, and required to perform the duties of the position. The family member must not be paid an unreasonably high salary. No existing employee may be terminated for the purpose of making a position available to such a family member.

Any newly elected or appointed board member or administrator shall make a full disclosure of any immediate family member employed in a position subject to this policy as soon as reasonably possible after the date of taking office.

No board member or district employee shall use their position or any confidential information received through their position to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, an immediate family member, or a business with which the individual is associated. No board member shall use or authorize the use of personnel, property, resources or funds under his or her official care for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question.

The superintendent shall keep a record for the district for every contract entered into by the district in which a board member has an interest. This information shall be kept for five years from the date of the board member's last day in office and will include the following:

1. Names of contracting parties;
2. The nature of the interest of the board member in question;
3. The date that the contract was approved by the district;
4. The amount of the contract; and
5. Basic terms of the contract.

The record kept by the superintendent shall be available for public inspection during the normal working hours of the superintendent's office.

All board members and district employees are responsible for obeying all final rulings or appeals of the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. If a case is contested before the Commission by the district, the superintendent shall ensure that the district is represented at the hearing. If a case is contested by a board member, that member shall be responsible for his/her own representation and shall be responsible for any Commission fines or penalties.

An open account established by the district with a business in which a board member has an interest, shall be deemed a contract subject to the provisions of this policy. The superintendent shall maintain a running account of all amounts purchased in open accounts.

Contracts involving one hundred dollars or less in which a board member may have an interest are excluded from the provisions of this policy.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 49-1493 to 49-14,103.07

Cross Reference: 201 Legal Status of the School Board
202.01 Board Member Code of Ethics
206.04 Board Member Compensation and Expenses
402.04 Nepotism

ITEM 4 PERSONS WHO MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

You

Member of your Immediate Family: _____
NAME

Business With Which You

Are Associated (See Definitions) _____
NAME OF BUSINESS

ITEM 5 NATURE OF FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

ITEM 6 CONTINUATION

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

General Information - Filing Requirements

I. What is a Potential Conflict of Interest? - A public official has a potential conflict of interest if he or she is faced with taking an official action or making an official decision which may result in a financial benefit or a financial detriment to the public official; a member of his or her immediate family; or a business with which he or she is associated. The financial effect of the action or decision must be distinguishable from the financial effect on the general public or a broad segment of it.

II. Who Must File:

- A. An official of a city or village holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest. An official of the cities of Lincoln or Omaha holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest should not file this form, but instead should use Form C-2.
- B. An official of a school district holding elective office who has a potential conflict of interest.
- C. An elective office is a public office normally filled by an election. A person appointed to fill a vacancy in a public office normally filled by election holds an elective office.

III. When and Where to File:

- A. This form should be filed as soon as the person holding elective office is aware that he or she may have a potential conflict of interest and prior to the time that the action is to be taken or the decision made.

- B. This form should be filed with the person who normally keeps records for the governing body of the official holding elective office. For example, the person who keeps records for a city or village may be the city clerk or village clerk. **This form does not need to be filed with the Commission.**
- C. The person filing the form should abstain from participating in or voting on the matter in which he or she has a potential conflict of interest. However, if the person wants an opinion from the Commission as to whether he or she has an actual conflict of interest requiring abstention or non-participation, he or she may send a copy of the form to the Commission along with request for an opinion.

Disclosure of Contractual Interests by Local Officers. If you are a local elected official disclosing an interest in a contract or an open account in which a local governing body on which you serve is a party, use NADC Form C-3, Contractual Interest Statement.

Disclosure of the Employment of Immediate Family Members. If you are disclosing the employment of an immediate family member, use NADC Form C-4, Employment of Immediate Family Members Disclosure Statement.

Definitions

Immediate family shall mean a child residing in your household, your spouse or an individual claimed by you or your spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Business shall mean any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, activity, or entity. NOTE: The definition includes for profit and non-profit entities.

Business with which you are associated shall mean a business: (1) of which you are the sole proprietor; (2) or in which you are a partner, director, or officer; (3) or in which you or a member of your immediate family is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth \$1,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 5 percent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth \$10,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 10 percent equity interest.

Elective office shall mean a public office filled by an election, except for federal offices. A person who is appointed to fill a vacancy in a public office which is ordinarily elective holds an elective office.

Person means a business, individual, proprietorship, firm partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, labor organization, company, corporation, association, committee, or any other organization or group of persons acting jointly.

Statutory Authority: Section 49-1499.03 Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

ITEM 4 | FOR NEWLY ELECTED OR APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

List members of your immediate family who were employed before your election or appointment, or prior to July 17, 1986 and are now employed or supervised by you.

A. Name _____ Relationship _____

Position _____ Employer _____
(IDENTIFY CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR STATE AGENCY)

Date Hired _____

B. Name _____ Relationship _____

Position _____ Employer _____
(IDENTIFY CITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR STATE AGENCY)

Date Hired _____

(Use ITEM 5, CONTINUATION, if necessary)

ITEM 5 | CONTINUATION

Empty space for continuation of information.

(Signature)

(Date)

General Information - Filing Requirements

A public official or public employee may employ, recommend the employment of, or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:

- 1) he or she does not abuse his or her official position; and
- 2) makes a written disclosure with the person in charge of keeping records for the governing body or a disclosure on the record to the governing body; and
- 3) he or she has first made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment:

NOTE: Examples of abuse of one's position could include, but are not limited to, (1) providing an unreasonably high salary, (2) not requiring the employee to actually perform the duties of his or her position, (3) terminating another employee to make a position available for an immediate family member, (4) hiring an immediate family member who is not qualified to hold the position.

I. Who Must File:

- A. Public officials and employees employing, recommending employment, or supervising the employment of an immediate family member must make a disclosure to the person in charge of keeping records for the governing body of the entity. Where applicable the disclosure may be made on the record to the governing body of the entity in lieu of a written disclosure.
- B. Public officials and employees who currently employ or supervise an immediate family member(s) employed prior to the election or appointment of the public official or public employee or prior to July 17, 1986.

II. When to File:

- A. Public officials and employees must file prior to employing, recommending employment, or supervising the employment of an immediate family member.

Governing body means the village board of a village, the city council of a city, the board of commissioners or board of supervisors of a county, the board of directors of a public power district, or any body with the ultimate power to determine the entity's policies and control its activities.

Immediate Family Member means a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by the public official or employee or his or her spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Public employee means an employee of the state or a political subdivision thereof.

Public official shall mean an official in the executive branch, an official in the legislative branch, or an elected or appointed official in the judicial branch of the state government or a political subdivision thereof; any elected or appointed members of a governing body of a state institution of high education.

- B. Newly elected or appointed public officials or employees shall file prior to or as soon as reasonably possible after the official date of taking office.

III. Where to File:

This form or other written disclosure should be filed with the person in charge of keeping records for the governing body of the entity served. (i.e., state officials and employees file with the head of their agency or department; officials and employees of public power districts file with the district office; county officials and employees file with the county clerk; city or village officials or employees file with the city or village clerk; officials and employees of natural resource districts file with the office of the district manager; school district officials and employees file with the district superintendent or secretary of the school board. **Disclosure need not be made to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.**

Disclosure of Contractual Interests by Local Officers. If you are disclosing an interest in a contract to which a local governing body on which you serve is a party, use NADC Form C-3, Contractual Interest Statement.

Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest by State Executive Branch Officials, Employees, and Others Required to file Statements of Financial Interests. If you are disclosing a potential conflict of interest under section 49-1499 of the Accountability Act, use NADC Form C-2, Potential Conflict of Interest Statement.

Definitions

Official in the executive branch means an official holding a state executive office as provided in Article IV, Constitution of Nebraska, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Tax Commissioner, the heads of such other executive departments as set forth in the Constitution or as may be established by law, a deputy thereto, or a member of any state board or commission.

Official in the legislative branch means a member or member-elect of the Legislature, a member of an official body established by and responsible to the Legislature, or employee thereof other than an individual employed by the state in a clerical or nonpolicymaking capacity.

Statutory Authority: Section 49-1499.01 Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

ITEM 4	NATURE AND EXTENT OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CONTRACT AND AMOUNT OF CONTRACT (Use ITEM 5, CONTINUATION, if necessary)
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ITEM 5	CONTINUATION
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(Signature) _____

(Date) _____

General Information - Filing Requirements

I. Who Must File:

A local officer with an interest in a contract to which his or her governing body or anyone for its benefit is a party must disclose the interest on the record of the body responsible for approving the contract, or in writing by filing this form.

II When to File:

An officer must declare his or her interest in a contract and the nature and extent of the interest **prior** to official consideration of the contract. The information concerning the contract listed in ITEM 3 of this form must be provided to the person in charge of keeping records of the governing body within 10 days after the contract is signed by both parties.

III. Where to File:

File with the person charged with keeping records for the governing body involved in the contract. For example, members of a County Board of Commissioners file with the County Clerk.

Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest by State Executive Branch Officials, Employees, and Others required to file Statements of Financial Interest. If you are disclosing a potential conflict of interest under section 49-1499 of the Accountability Act, use NADC Form C-2, Potential Conflict of Interest Statement.

Disclosure of the Employment of Immediate Family Members. If you are disclosing the employment of an immediate family member, use NADC Form C-4, Employment of Immediate Family Members Disclosure Statement.

Officer means a member of the board of directors of a natural resources district, a member of any board or commission of any county, school district, city or village which spends and administers its own funds, who is dealing with a contract made by such board or commission, and any elected county, school district, educational service unit, city, or village official, and a member of any board of directors or trustees of a district hospital as provided by the Nebraska Local Hospital District Act or a county hospital as provided by sections 23-343 to 23-343.19. Officer shall **not** mean volunteer firefighters or ambulance drivers with respect to their duties as firefighters or ambulance drivers.

Governing Body means the board of directors of a natural resources district, the board of supervisors or the board of commissioners of any county, a school district board, the board of an educational service unit, the city council of a city, the village board of a village, the board of directors or trustees of a district hospital as provided by the Nebraska Local Hospital District Act, sections 23-343.20 to 23-343.47, or a county hospital as provided by sections 23-343 to 23-343.19, or any board or commission of any county, school district, city or village which spends and administers its own funds.

An officer has an **interest** in a contract when the officer or his or her spouse, parent, or child: (a) has a business association as defined in sections 49-1408 and 49-14,103.01(5) with the business involved in the contract, or (b) will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract. An officer interested in a contract with his or her governing body may not: (1) vote on the matter of granting the contract, or (2) act for the governing body as to inspection or performance under the contract.

An **open account** established for the benefit of any governing body with a business in which an officer has an interest is considered a contract subject to disclosure requirements.

For purposes of contractual interest conflicts, as covered by section 49-14,103.01, ownership of less than five percent of the outstanding shares of a corporation shall not constitute an interest subject to disclosure.

Receiving deposits, cashing checks, and buying and selling warrants and bonds of indebtedness of a governing body by a financial institution is **not** considered a contract.

Any governing body as defined below may prohibit officers from having an interest in contracts over a specific dollar amount. A governing body may also exempt from disclosure requirements contracts for one hundred dollars or less in which an officer of the body has an interest.

Definitions

Business means any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, activity or entity.

Business with which you are associated means a business: (1) in which you are a partner, director or officer; or (2) in which you or a member of your immediate family is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth \$1,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 5 percent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth \$10,000 or more at fair market value or which represents more than a 10 percent equity interest.

For purposes of contractual interest conflicts, as covered by section 49-14,103.01, ownership of less than five percent of the outstanding shares of a corporation shall not constitute an interest subject to disclosure.

Statutory Authority: Section 49-14,103.01 R.S. Supp., 1987, and sections 49-14,103.02 to 49-14,103.07 R.S. Supp., 1986.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

The primary purpose for board self-evaluation is for the improvement of school board leadership. In evaluating the board's functions and roles, the board may focus attention to the following:

1. Evaluation shall be conducted annually at a scheduled time and place;
2. The evaluation should be a composite of the individual board members' opinions;
3. The evaluation should include a constructive discussion of strengths and weaknesses; and
4. The board should be free to comment on any area related to its function of governing the district.

The board and superintendent will cooperatively develop an evaluation plan that annually evaluates the various aspects of the board's functions, duties, and roles. The evaluation will include the following items:

1. The evaluation instrument shall define and describe the standards against which the board evaluates its performance.
2. The evaluation shall include the establishment of objectives and strategies for improving board performance.
3. The evaluation shall analyze progress toward existing board goals and examine the need to establish new or revised goals.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 104 Educational and Operational Planning
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 702.02 Budget Planning, Preparation and Schedules
 902.01 Buildings and Sites Long Range Planning
 1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SECRETARY

A secretary shall be elected annually by the board.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary, as custodian of school district records, to preserve and maintain the records and documents pertaining to the business of the board; to keep complete minutes of special and regular board meetings; to cause the meeting minutes and a list of all approved claims to be published; to keep a record of the results of regular and special elections; to keep an accurate account of school funds; to sign warrants drawn on the school funds after board approval; and to complete and maintain the annual school census. The board clerk may assist the secretary in the completion of his/her duties.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-528
 79-564
 79-576 to 580

Cross Reference: 104.01 Annual School Census
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 204.11 Meeting Minutes

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

TREASURER

It shall be the responsibility of the board to annually appoint a board clerk/treasurer.

It shall be the responsibility of the treasurer to receive the funds collected for the district by the county treasurer, to pay out the funds for expenses approved by the board, to maintain accurate accounting records for each fund, to manage district's investments for the maximum benefit to the district, to report monthly and annually the status of all district funds and investments, and to file required reports with the appropriate state agencies and other entities.

The treasurer will work with the secretary to coordinate the recording, preserving and reporting of financial records, reports, cash flow needs and district investments.

If the treasurer is unable or unwilling to carry out the duties required, it shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or other person designated by board policy to carry out the duties of the treasurer.

The treasurer shall do one of the following within ten days after election to the position:

1. Give bond in an amount set by the board of not less than \$500 and not more than double the amount of money to come into his/her hands as treasurer at any one time.
2. Give evidence of an equal amount of insurance coverage by the district.

The cost of the bond or insurance coverage will be paid by the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-586 to 590

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 700 Business Operation

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD COMMITTEES

Committees will be appointed by the president of the board. These committees are created for specific tasks of seeking information or investigation and will report back to the board for its consideration and action. Committee action is considered to be advisory only. Each committee will have a chairperson appointed by the president. The following committees are appointed at the annual board organizational meeting for one year:

Americanism and Textbooks

Teacher Negotiations

Transportation

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-724

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEES

Whenever the board considers it necessary, the board may appoint a committee composed of patrons, students, staff, administrators and board members.

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

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

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 104 Educational and Operational Planning
 204.05 Open Meetings
 204.06 Closed Sessions
 1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

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

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

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

In legal matters between the board and the superintendent, the school attorney shall be disqualified from acting in behalf of either party.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-513

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

The regular meeting shall be held on the second Monday of each month, except for the regular September meeting, which will be held on the third Monday of that month, unless circumstances beyond the board's control requires the meeting to be set on another date - but at no time later than the third Monday of the month. The board shall set the meeting for the next month at the preceding board meeting.

Regular meetings shall start at 7:00 p.m. unless other circumstances require a different starting time. The public notice shall include meeting date, time and location of the meeting.

All meetings of the board shall be held at the location designated in the notice of said meeting. If circumstances dictate meeting in a different location than designated in the notice, it shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to take the appropriate steps to inform board members and the public. Meetings of the board may be held outside the school district boundaries when deemed necessary by the board.

The board shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

All actions taken by the board shall occur in open session by a roll call vote of the board with a record of the voting kept for the minutes. The voting requirements may be met by using an electronic voting device which allows the vote of each board member to be readily seen by the public.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-554
 79-560
 79-561
 84-1412

Cross Reference: 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the superintendent, the president of the board or any two board members. Should a special meeting be called, public notice shall be given and the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the open meetings laws.

If the special meeting called is an emergency meeting and the board cannot give public notice in its usual manner, the board shall give public notice of the meeting as soon as practical and possible in light of the situation. The reason for the emergency meeting and why notice in its usual manner could not be given shall be stated in the minutes. Minutes of the emergency meeting must be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

Only the purpose or issue for which the emergency meeting was called may be discussed and decided in the emergency meeting. The board shall strictly adhere to the agenda for the emergency meeting and action on other issues shall be reserved for the next regular or special board meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-554
 79-555
 84-712
 84-1408 to 1414

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public notice of a public hearing shall be in the same manner as for a board meeting and shall be given at least two days before the hearing is to be held.

At public hearings, citizens of the district who register to speak will be allowed to speak only on the issue for which the public hearing is being held. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks as brief as possible. Prior to the beginning of the hearing, speakers and spectators will be apprised of the rules of order to be followed regarding time limitations, questions, remarks and rebuttals. In no event will a speaker be allowed to take the time of another speaker.

The board shall conduct public hearings in an orderly fashion. At the beginning of the hearing statements, background materials and public hearing rules and procedures will be presented by the board president or administrators. The board president will recognize the speakers. A board member may ask questions of the speakers after receiving permission from the board president. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the board or the proceedings shall be asked to leave.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 et seq.

Cross Reference: 702.03 Budget Adoption Process
 1005.03 Parental Involvement in the Schools

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

WORK SESSIONS AND RETREATS

The board may, as needed or desired, schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide its members and the administration with the opportunity to conduct planning, research, and thoughtful discussion without taking immediate action. The board has the authority to hire an outside facilitator to assist them in these work sessions.

Topics for discussion and study will be announced publicly, and work sessions and retreats will be conducted in open session. However, no board action will take place at the work session.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

OPEN MEETINGS

The conduct of board meetings is governed by the open meetings laws.

A gathering of a majority of board members for the purposes of briefing, discussion of board business, formation of policy or taking formal action is a board meeting. Meetings of the board shall be conducted in a meeting open to the public unless the board is temporarily convened in a closed session.

Chance or social gatherings, attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops or other occasions when there is no discussion of or action on any matter within the board's supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power will not constitute a meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1410

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

CLOSED SESSIONS

A closed, or executive, session will take place as part of an open meeting of the board. The item for discussion in the closed session shall be listed as part of the tentative agenda on the public notice. The motion for a closed session, including its subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session, shall be made and seconded during the open meeting, and approved by a majority of the voting members. The minutes shall state the entire motion for the closed session, the roll call vote to enter closed session, and the time the closed session began and ended. Following approval of the motion to close, the presiding officer shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session immediately prior to the closed session.

The board shall restrict its considerations to only those matters set forth in the minutes as the reason for the closed session. A closed session may be held (1) if it is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or (2) for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. Specific reasons for the board entering into a closed session from an open meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, or litigation;
2. Discussion regarding the use of security personnel or devices;
3. Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;
4. Evaluations of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if that person has not requested a public meeting.

No formal action may be taken until the board has reconvened in open session.

Any board member may challenge the continuation of a closed session if he or she believes the session has exceeded the reason stated in the motion to hold the closed session. A majority vote of the board is required in order to overrule the challenge. The challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1410

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

AGENDA

The superintendent of schools in collaboration with the board president shall develop a tentative agenda of topics of discussion and action at the board meeting. The agenda shall include both items requiring action by the board, and items of information not requiring board action. The agenda shall be kept current and open for public inspection at the office of the superintendent. Only items of an emergency nature may be added to the agenda later than twenty-four hours before the scheduled meeting.

Members of the public who are district residents may request an opportunity to address the board on a particular issue. The request must be made to the superintendent prior to the drafting the final agenda, but at no time later than twenty-four hours prior to meeting time. The persons making the request must state the person's name, address, purpose of the presentation, action desired and any pertinent background information. Requests from the public may be added to the agenda at the discretion of the superintendent after consultation with the board president.

The tentative agenda and supporting documents shall be mailed to the board members no later than three days prior to the scheduled board meeting. These documents are the private property of the board member and are not required to be shared with any member of the public.

The board shall take action only on the items listed on the tentative agenda as developed prior to the board meeting. Items added to the agenda may be discussed or taken under advisement by the board. If an added item is acted upon, it must be determined that it is an item of an emergency nature. The minutes of the board meeting shall state the reason justifying the immediate action.

A consent agenda may be used by the board for non-controversial business. The consent agenda will consist of routine business that requires action but not necessarily discussion. These items may all be approved at the same time. A board member may ask that any item be removed from the consent agenda. The removed item will then be placed on the regular agenda.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-712
 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 203 Organization of the School Board
 403.05 Public Complaints about Employees
 503 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 1003 Public Examination of District Records

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

MEETING MINUTES

The board shall keep and maintain permanent records of the board including, but not limited to, records of the minutes of board meetings, documentation received or disclosed in open session of the meetings, and other required records of the board. The minutes may be kept as an electronic record.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary to keep the minutes of the board meetings. The minutes of each board meeting shall include as a minimum the following items: a record of the date, time, place, members present, action taken and the vote of each member, and the schedule of bills allowed shall be attached. The minutes shall also include all required information regarding any closed sessions as stated in policy 204.06. This information shall be available within 10 days of the board meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, if earlier. Minutes shall be forwarded to the newspaper designated as the official newspaper for publication. The schedule of bills allowed may be published on a once monthly basis in lieu of publication with the minutes. The permanent records of the board minutes may include more detail than is required for the publication of the minutes.

Minutes awaiting approval at the next board meeting will be available for inspection at the central office of the district after the office transcribes the notes into a document which has been proofread for errors and corrected.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-577
 79-580
 84-712
 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 203 Organization of the School Board
 1003 Public Examination of District Records
 1004 Press, Radio and Television News Media

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

PUBLIC COMMENT IN BOARD MEETINGS

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the board may allow for citizen participation, either at a specific time during the meeting or during the discussion of agenda items. If the pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to eliminate this practice at a particular meeting and will announce that decision at the beginning of the meeting. The orderly process of the board meeting shall not be interfered with or disrupted.

The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public comment. The board president shall specify the total amount of time available for public comment prior to opening the public comment period. If public comment is allowed prior to individual agenda items, that limit on the total comment period should also be defined. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes for each participant. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time. Only those speakers recognized by the board president shall be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual making the comments or another individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting.

It is helpful if citizens wishing to address the board on a certain agenda item will notify the superintendent prior to the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the board relating to that item may do so at this time. However, the board will only receive the petitions and will not act upon them or their contents.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees or students who have complaints shall follow policies 403.05 and 504.01 respectively. The board will follow policy 1005.01 in handling public complaints.

Any written or printed materials to be circulated for a meeting of the school board must be submitted to the superintendent by the Wednesday preceding a Monday night meeting. Adding such information to the agenda packet will be at the discretion of the superintendent after consultation with the board president.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 201.07 Board Member Liability
403.05 Public Complaints about Employees

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The board has jurisdiction to determine the policies which will govern the operations of the school district with the force and effect of law.

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

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

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526
 79-532
 79-539
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

POLICY ADOPTION

The board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two regular board meetings. The proposed new policy or policy amendment shall be distributed and introduced at the first of the two meetings. Public comment will be allowed at each meeting prior to final board adoption at the second meeting. This notice procedure shall be required except for emergency situations.

If the board adopts a policy in an emergency situation, a statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The board shall have complete discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation. The board reserves the right to amend, alter or eliminate any board policy in an emergency situation. The emergency policy or action shall expire after two regular board meeting. At that time the policy may be adopted through the normal policy adoption procedure.

The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy or amendment shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the board. The effective date of the policy shall be the later of the adoption date or a date stated in the motion.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-520
 79-526
 84-712 et seq.
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

POLICY SUSPENSION

It shall be within the discretion or amendment of the board to suspend a policy. Policies of the board may be immediately amended or temporarily suspended by a majority vote of board members present at an official meeting of the board if the board determines that an emergency exists. This does not apply to any section of board policies established by law or by contract. Reasons for amendment or suspension of board policy shall be documented in board minutes.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATION IN THE ABSENCE OF POLICY

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

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

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 302.04 Superintendent Duties

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

The Superintendent has responsibility for carrying out the policies established by the board.

When necessary, it shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement the board policies. The regulations, including handbooks, will be adopted by the board when specific state or federal laws require the board to do so or when the board or superintendent considers such approval desirable.

The administrative regulations will be available no later than the first regular board meeting after the adoption of the board policy unless the board directs otherwise.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 302.04 Superintendent Duties

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

The board of education and the administrative staff shall assist each new board member to understand the board of education's functions, policies, procedures and operation of the school system. The following methods may be employed.

1. The incoming member shall be given selected materials including a current copy of the board policy manual, a budget document, latest annual finance reports and other reports that may foster an understanding of the operation of the district.
2. The incoming board member shall be invited to attend board meetings in November and December prior to taking his/her seat on the board in January.
3. The incoming member shall be invited to meet with the superintendent and principals to discuss the services they perform for the board.
4. The incoming member may attend, at district expense, workshops for newly elected members as approved by the board of education.

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment
 202 School Board Member Conduct

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Participation in board member associations are beneficial to the board. The board shall maintain an active membership in the Nebraska Association of School Boards and in organizations the board determines will be of benefit to the board and the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-512

Cross Reference: 206.03 Board Member Development Opportunities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The board may participate in conferences sponsored by educational associations and agencies in addition to its own in-service programs and work sessions.

The board shall encourage its members to attend training and development programs with the purpose of improving members' leadership skills, increasing their knowledge of educational issues and better representing the interests of the school district.

Cross Reference: 206.02 Board Association Membership

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

