

**School Board**

**School District Governance**

The District is governed by a School Board consisting of 7 members. The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the District's schools.

Official action by the School Board may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting at which a quorum is physically present.

As stated in the Board member oath of office prescribed by the School Code, a Board member has no legal authority as an individual.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120/1.02.  
105 ILCS 5/10-1, 5/10-10, 5/10-12, 5/10-16.5, 5/10-16.7, and 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 1:10 (School District Legal Status)  
2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board)  
2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct)  
2:120 (Board Member Development)  
2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)  
2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **February 13, 2012 (Effective March 1, 2012)**

## **School Board**

### **Powers and Duties of the School Board**

The major powers and duties of the School Board include, but are not limited to:

1. Formulating, adopting, and modifying School Board policies, at its sole discretion, subject only to mandatory collective bargaining agreements and State and federal law.
2. Employing a Superintendent and other personnel, making employment decisions, and dismissing personnel, and establishing an equal employment opportunity policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination.
3. Directing, through policy, the Superintendent, in his or her charge of the District's administration.
4. Approving the annual budget, tax levies, major expenditures, payment of obligations, annual audit, and other aspects of the District's financial operation; and making available a statement of financial affairs as provided in State law.
5. Entering contracts using the public bidding procedure when required.
6. Indemnifying, protecting, and insuring against any loss or liability of the School District, Board members, employees, and agents as provided or authorized by State law.
7. Providing, constructing, controlling, and maintaining adequate physical facilities; making school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters; and establishing a resource conservation policy.
8. Establishing an equal educational opportunities policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination.
9. Approving the curriculum, textbooks, and educational services.
10. Evaluating the educational program and approving School Improvement and District Improvement Plans.
11. Presenting the District report card and School report card(s) to parents/guardians and the community; these documents report District, School and student performance.
12. Establishing and supporting student discipline policies designed to maintain an environment conducive to learning, including deciding individual student suspension or expulsion cases brought before it.
13. Establishing attendance units within the District and assigning students to the schools.
14. Establishing the school year.
15. Requiring a moment of silence to recognize veterans during any type of school event held at a District school on November 11.
16. Providing student transportation services.

- 17. Entering into joint agreements with other boards to establish cooperative educational programs or provide educational facilities.
- 18. Complying with requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Specifically, each individual School Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed School Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in the Act, direct or cause the School Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.
- 19. Communicating the schools' activities and operations to the community and representing the needs and desires of the community in educational matters.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d, 5/10,5/17-1, and 5/27-1.  
115 ILCS 5/  
325 ILCS 5/4

CROSS REFERENCE: 1:10 (School District Legal Status)  
1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements)  
2:10 (School District Governance)  
2:80 (Board Member Oath & Conduct)  
2:140 (Communications To and From the Board)  
2:240 (Board Policy Development)  
4:60 (Purchases and Contracts)  
4:70 (Resource Conservation)  
4:100 (Insurance Management)  
4:110 (Transportation)  
4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)  
5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment)  
5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)  
6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)  
6:15 (School Accountability)  
6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day)  
7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)  
7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer)  
7:190 (Student Discipline)  
7:200 (Suspension Procedures)  
7:210 (Expulsion Procedures)  
8:10 (Connection with the Community)  
8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**  
AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**  
AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**  
AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**  
AMENDED: **February 11, 2013 (Effective March 1, 2013)**

**School Board**

**School District Elections**

School District elections are non-partisan, governed by the general election laws of the State, and include the election of School Board members, various public policy propositions, and advisory questions. School Board members are elected at the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years. If, however, that date conflicts with the celebration of Passover, the consolidated election is postponed to the first Tuesday following the last day of Passover. The canvass of votes is conducted by the election authority within 21 days after the election.

The Board, by proper resolution, may cause to be placed on the ballot: (a) public policy referendum according to Article 28 of the Election Code, or (b) advisory questions of public policy according to Section 9-1.5 of the Election Code.

The Board Secretary serves as the local election official. He or she received petitions for the submission of a public question to referenda and forwards them to the proper election officer and otherwise provides information to the community concerning District elections.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 10 ILCS 5/1-3, 5/2A, 5/10-9, 5/22-17, 5/22-18, and  
5/28.  
105 ILCS 5/9 and 5/9-1.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:40 (Board Member Qualifications)  
2:50 (Board Member Term of Office)  
2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 11, 2013 (Effective March 1, 2013)**

AMENDED: **August 11, 2014**

**School Board**

**Board Member Qualifications**

A School Board member must be, on the date of election or appointment, a United States citizen at least 18 years of age, a resident of Illinois and the District for at least one year immediately preceding election, and a registered voter.

Reasons making an individual ineligible for Board membership include holding an incompatible office and certain types of State or federal employment. A child sex offender, as defined in State law, is ineligible for School Board membership.

LEGAL REFERENCE: *Ill. Constitution*, Art. 2, ¶ 1; Art. 4, ¶ 2(e); Art. 6, ¶ 13(b).  
105 ILCS 5/10-3 and 5/10-10.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:30 (School District Elections)  
2:70 (Vacancies on the School Board – Filling Vacancies)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**

**School Board**

**Board Member Term of Office**

The term of office for a School Board member begins immediately after both of the following occur:

1. The election authority canvasses the votes and declares the winner(s); this occurs within 21 days after the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years.
2. The successful candidate takes the oath of office as provided in Board Policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*.

The term ends 4 years later when the successor assumes office.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1, 5/22-17, and 5/22-18.  
105 ILCS 5/10-10, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:30 (School District Elections)  
2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct)  
2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

**School Board**

**Board Member Removal from Office**

If a majority of the Board determines that a Board member has willfully failed to perform his or her official duties, it may request the Regional Superintendent to remove such member from office.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 105 ILCS 5/3-15.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:70 (Vacancies on School Board—Filling Vacancies)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

## School Board

### Vacancies on School Board—Filling Vacancies

#### Vacancy

Elective office of a School Board member becomes vacant before the term's expiration when any of the following occurs:

1. Death of the incumbent;
2. Resignation in writing filed with the Secretary of the School Board;
3. Legal disability of the incumbent;
4. Conviction of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime or of any offense involving a violation of official oath or of a violent crime against a child;
5. Removal from office;
6. The decision of a competent tribunal declaring his or her election void;
7. Ceasing to be an inhabitant of the District or a particular area from which he or she was elected, if the residential requirements contained in *The School Code* are violated;
8. An illegal conflict of interest; or
9. Acceptance of a second public office that is incompatible with School Board membership.

#### Filling Vacancies

Whenever a vacancy occurs, the remaining members shall notify the Regional Superintendent of Schools of that vacancy within 5 days after its occurrence and shall fill the vacancy until the next regular school board election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. However, if the vacancy occurs with less than 868 days remaining in the term, the person so appointed shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term, and no election to fill the vacancy shall be held. Members appointed by the remaining members of the Board to fill vacancies shall meet any residential requirements as specified in *The School Code*. The board shall fill the vacancy within 45 days after it occurred by a public vote at a meeting of the Board.

Immediately following a vacancy on the School Board, the Board will publicize it and accept resumés from District residents who are interested in filling the vacancy. After reviewing the applications, the Board may invite the prospective candidates for personal interviews to be conducted during duly scheduled closed meetings.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 105 ILCS 5/10-10 and 5/10-11.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:40 (Board Member Qualifications)  
2:60 (Board Member Removal from Office)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**



**School Board**

**Board Member Oath and Conduct**

Each School Board member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

**I, (name), do solemnly swear** (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District #196, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

**I further swear** (or affirm) that:

**I shall respect** taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

**I shall encourage** and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees:

**I shall recognize** that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting; and

**I shall abide** by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.

The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting; in the absence of the President, the Vice-President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

The Board adopts the Illinois Association of School Boards' *Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards*. A copy of the Code shall be displayed in the regular Board meeting room.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 1:30 (School District Philosophy)  
2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board)  
2:50 (Board Member Term of Office)  
2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest)  
2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban)  
2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**

**School Board**

**Board Member Conflict of Interest**

No School Board member shall have a beneficial interest directly or indirectly in any contract, work, or business of the District unless permitted by State law.

Board members must annually file a "Statement of Economic Interests" as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Each Board member is responsible for filing the statement with the county clerk of the county in which the District's main office is located by May 1.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 420/4A-101, 420/4A-105, 420/4A-106, and 420/4A-107.  
50 ILCS 105/3.  
105 ILCS 5/10-9.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban)  
5:120 (Ethics and Conduct)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**

AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**

AMENDED: **August 11, 2014**

## School Board

### Ethics and Gift Ban

#### Prohibited Political Activity

The following precepts govern political activities being conducted by District employees and School Board members:

1. No employee shall intentionally perform any "political activity" during any "compensated time," as those terms are defined herein.
2. No Board Member or employee shall intentionally use any District property or resources in connection with any political activity.
3. At no time shall any Board Member or employee intentionally require any other Board Member or employee to perform any political activity: (a) as part of that Board Member's or employee's duties, (b) as a condition of employment, or (c) during any compensated time off, such as, holidays, vacation or personal time off.
4. No Board Member or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any political activity in consideration for that Board Member or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise, nor shall any Board Member or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any political activity.

A Board Member or employee may engage in any activity that: (1) is otherwise appropriate as part of his or her official duties, or (2) is undertaken by the individual on a voluntary basis that is not prohibited by this policy.

#### Limitations on Receiving Gifts

Except as permitted by this policy, no Board Member or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with a Board Member or employee, shall intentionally solicit or accept any "gift" from any "prohibited source," as those terms are defined herein, or that is otherwise prohibited by law or policy. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this policy.

The following are exceptions to the ban on accepting gifts from a prohibited source:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the Board Member or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.
3. Any, (a) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code, or (b) activities associated with a fund-raising event in support of a political organization or candidate.
4. Educational materials and missions.
5. Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss business.
6. A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.

7. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (a) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (b) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (c) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other Board Members or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.
8. Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are: (a) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared; or (b) catered. "Catered" means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume which are delivered by any means.
9. Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of a Board Member or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the Board Member or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.
10. Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. "Intra-governmental gift" means any gift given to a Board Member or employee from another Board Member or employee, and "inter-governmental gift" means any gift given to a Board Member or employee from an officer or employee of another governmental entity.
11. Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.
12. Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Each of the listed exceptions is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

A Board Member or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the Board Member or employee, does not violate this policy if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or give the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### Enforcement

The Board President and Superintendent shall seek guidance from the Board attorney concerning compliance with and enforcement of this policy and State ethics laws. The Board may, as necessary or prudent, appoint an Ethics Advisor for this task.

Written complaints alleging a violation of this policy shall be filed with the Superintendent or Board President. If attempts to correct any misunderstanding or problem do not resolve the matter, the Superintendent or Board President shall, after consulting with the Board attorney, either place the alleged violation on a Board meeting agenda for the Board's disposition or refer the complainant to Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A Board member who is related, either by blood or by marriage, up to the degree of first cousin, to the person who is the subject of the complaint, shall not participate in any decision-making capacity for the Board. If the Board finds it more likely than not that the allegations in a complaint are true, it shall notify the State's Attorney and/or consider disciplinary action for the employee.

Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, all terms used in this policy have the definition given in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/1-5.

“Political activity” means:

1. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.
2. Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
3. Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.
4. Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
5. Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
6. Assisting at the polls on Election Day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
7. Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
8. Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
9. Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.
10. Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.
11. Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
12. Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.
13. Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
14. Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.
15. Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

With respect to an employee whose hours are not fixed, “compensated time” includes any period of time when the employee is on premises under the control of the District and any other time when the employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

“Prohibited source” means any person or entity who:

1. Is seeking official action by: (a) a Board Member, or (b) an employee, or by the Board Member or another employee directing that employee;
2. Does business or seeks to do business with: (a) the Board Member, or (b) with an employee, or with the Board Member or another employee directing that employee;
3. Conducts activities regulated by: (a) the Board Member, or (b) by an employee or by the Board Member or another employee directing that employee;
4. Has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the Board Member or employee;
5. Is registered or required to be registered with the Secretary of State under the Lobbyist Registration Act, except that an entity does not become a prohibited source merely because a registered lobbyist is one of its members or serves on its board of directors; or

- 6. Is an agent of, a spouse of, or an immediate family member living with a prohibited source.

“Gift” means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including, but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of a Board Member or employee.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.  
10 ILCS 5/9-25.1, Election Interference Prohibition Act.

CROSS REFERENCE: 5:120 (Ethics)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **August 11, 2008 (Effective September 1, 2008)**

AMENDED: **February 10, 2014 (Effective March 1, 2014)**

## School Board

### Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers

The School Board officers are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers are elected or appointed by the Board at its organizational meeting.

#### President

The School Board elects a President from its members for a 2-year term. The duties of the President are to:

1. Focus the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content and preside at all meetings;
2. Make all Board committee appointments; unless specifically stated otherwise;
3. Attend and observe any Board committee meeting at his or her discretion;
4. Represent the Board on other boards or agencies;
5. Sign official District documents requiring the President's signature, including Board minutes and Certificate of Tax Levy;
6. Call special meetings of the Board;
7. Serve as the *head of the public body* for purposes of the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act;
8. Ensure that a quorum of the Board is physically present at all Board meetings;
9. Administer the oath of office to new Board members; and
10. Serve as the Board's official spokesperson to the media.

The President is permitted to participate in all Board meetings in a manner equal to all other Board members, including the ability to make and second motions.

The Vice President fills a vacancy in the Presidency.

#### Vice President

The School Board elects a Vice President from its members for a 2-year term. The Vice President performs the duties of the President if:

- The office of President is vacant;
- The President is absent;
- The President is unable to perform the office's duties.

A vacancy in the Vice Presidency is filled by a special Board election.

#### Secretary

The Board elects a Secretary for a 2-year term. The secretary may be, but is not required to be, a Board member. The Secretary may receive reasonable compensation as determined by the Board before appointment. However, if the secretary is a Board member, the compensation shall not exceed \$500 per year, as fixed by the Board at least 180 days before the beginning of the term. The duties of the Secretary are to:

1. Keep meeting minutes for all Board meetings and keep the verbatim record for all closed Board meetings;
2. Mail meeting notification and agenda to news media who have officially requested copies;

3. Keep records of the Board's official acts, and sign them, along with the President, before submitting them to the Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require;
4. Report to the Treasurer on or before July 7, annually, such information as the Treasurer is required to include in the Treasurer's report to the Regional Superintendent;
5. Act as the local election authority for the District;
6. Arrange public inspection of the budget before adoption;
7. Publish required notices;
8. Sign official District documents requiring the Secretary's signature; and
9. Maintain Board policy and such other official documents as directed by the Board.

The Secretary may delegate some or all of these duties, except when State law prohibits the delegation. The Board appoints a secretary pro tempore, who may or may not be a Board member, if the Secretary is absent from any meeting or refuses to perform the duties of the office. A permanent vacancy in the office of Secretary is filled by special Board election.

#### Recording Secretary

The Board may appoint a Recording Secretary who is a staff member. The Recording Secretary shall:

1. Assist the Secretary by taking the minutes for all open Board meetings;
2. Assemble Board meeting material and provide it, along with prior meeting minutes, to Board members before the next meeting; and
3. Perform the Secretary's duties, as assigned, except when State law prohibits the delegation.

In addition, the Recording Secretary or Superintendent receives notification from Board members who desire to attend a Board meeting by video or audio means.

#### Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Board shall be either a member of the Board who serves a 1-year term or a non-Board member who serves at the Board's pleasure. A Treasurer who is a Board member may not be compensated. A Treasurer who is not a Board member may be compensated provided it is established before the appointment. The Treasurer must:

- Be at least 21 years old;
- Not be a member of the County Board of School Trustees; and
- Have a financial background or related experience, or 12 credit hours of college-level accounting.

The Treasurer shall:

1. Furnish a bond, which shall be approved by a majority of the full Board;
2. Maintain custody of school funds;
3. Maintain records of school funds and balances;
4. Prepare a monthly reconciliation report for the Superintendent and Board; and
5. Receive, hold, and expend District funds only upon the order of the Board.

A vacancy in the Treasurer's office is filled by Board appointment.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120/7 and 420/4A-106.  
105 ILCS 5/8-1, 5/8-2, 5/8-3, 5/8-6, 5/8-16, 5/8-17, 5/10-1, 5/10-5,  
5/10-7, 5/10-8, 5/10-13, 5/10-13.1, 5/10-14, 5/10-16.5, and 5/17-1.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct)



2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**

AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**

AMENDED: **February 11, 2013 (Effective March 1, 2013)**

AMENDED: **August 11, 2014**

## School Board

### Board Member Development

The School Board desires that its individual members learn, understand, and practice effective governance principles. The Board is responsible for Board member orientation and development. Board members have an equal opportunity to attend State and national meetings designed to familiarize members with public school issues, governance, and legislation.

The Board President and/or Superintendent shall provide all Board members with information regarding pertinent educational materials, publications, and notices of training or development.

### Mandatory Board Member Training

Each Board member is responsible for his or her own compliance with the mandatory training laws that are described below:

1. Each Board member must complete at least 4 hours of professional development leadership training in education and labor law, financial oversight and accountability, and fiduciary responsibilities within the first year of his or her first term. This requirement is applicable to Board members who are elected after June 13, 2011 or who are appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration after that date.
2. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act no later than 90 days after taking the oath of office for the first time. After completing the training, each Board member must file a copy of the certificate of completion with the Board. Training on the Open Meetings Act is only required once.
3. Each Board member must complete a training program on evaluations under the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) before participating in a vote on a tenured teacher's dismissal using the optional alternative evaluation dismissal process. This dismissal process is available after the District's PERA implementation date.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain on the District website a log identifying the complete training and development activities of each Board member, including both mandatory and non-mandatory training.

### Board Self-Evaluation

The School Board will conduct periodic self-evaluations with the goal of continuous improvement.

### New Board Member Orientation

The orientation process for newly elected or appointed School Board members includes:

1. The Board President or Superintendent or their designees, shall give each new Board member a copy of or online access to the Board Policy Manual, the Board's regular meeting minutes for the past year, and other helpful information including material describing the District and explaining the Board's roles and responsibilities.
2. The Board President or designee shall schedule one or more special Board meetings, or schedule time during regular meetings, for Board members to become acquainted and to review Board processes and procedures.
3. The Board President may request a veteran Board member to mentor a new member.

- 4. All new members are encouraged to attend workshops for new members conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Candidates

The Superintendent or designee shall invite all current candidates for the office of Board member to attend (1) Board meetings, except that this invitation shall not extend to any closed meetings, and (2) pre-election workshops for candidates.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120/1.05 and 120/2.  
105 ILCS 5/10-16a and 5/24-16.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct)  
2:125 (Board Member Expenses)  
2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)

- ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**
- AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**
- AMENDED: **August 11, 2008 (Effective September 1, 2008)**
- AMENDED: **August 13, 2012 (Effective August 31, 2012)**
- AMENDED: **February 10, 2014 (Effective March 1, 2014)**

## School Board

### Board Member Expenses

No School Board Member may receive compensation for services, except that a Board member serving as the Board Secretary may be paid an amount up to the statutory limit if the Board so provides.

The Board may advance or reimburse members the actual and necessary expenses incurred while attending:

1. Meetings sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education or by the Regional Superintendent of Schools;
2. County or regional meetings and the annual meeting sponsored by any school board association complying with Article 23 of *The School Code*; and
3. Meetings sponsored by an organization in the field of public school education.

In addition, the Board may reimburse a member for registration fees or tuition for a course that allowed the member to comply with the mandatory training described in policy 2:120, *Board Member Development*.

Expense reimbursement is not guaranteed and Board members should seek pre-approval of expenses, except in situations when the expense is diminutive. A Board member must return to the District any portion of an expense advance not used. Members must submit an itemized, signed voucher to support any expense advanced or to seek expense reimbursement. The voucher must show the amount of actual expense, attaching receipts if possible. A Board member submitting a bill for a group function should record participating members' names on the receipt. Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed for: (1) the expenses of any person except the Board member, or (2) anyone's personal expenses.

The Superintendent shall review the submitted vouchers for compliance with this policy. If any voucher's compliance appears uncertain, the Superintendent shall notify the Board President, or Vice President if the voucher in question is from the President, as well as the Board member who submitted the voucher. The Superintendent shall include the voucher in the monthly list of bills that is presented to the Board for approval or rejection.

### Registration

When possible, registration fees will be paid by the District in advance.

### Transportation

The least expensive transportation will be used, providing that no hardship will be caused to the Board member. Board members will be reimbursed for:

1. Air travel at the coach or single class commercial airline rate. First class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense voucher. Copies of airline tickets must be attached to the expense voucher.

2. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets will be attached to the expense voucher to substantiate amounts.
3. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed. Toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed.
4. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense voucher.
5. Taxis, airport limousines, or other local transportation costs.

Hotel/Motel Charges

Board members should request conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations. A single room rate will be reimbursed. Board members should pay personal expenses at checkout. If that is impossible, deductions for the charges should be made on the expense voucher.

Meal Charges

Meal charges to the School District should represent mid-fare selections for the hotel/meeting facility or general area. Tips are included with the meal charges. Expense vouchers must explain the meal charges incurred.

Miscellaneous Expenses

Board members may seek reimbursement for other expenses incurred while attending a meeting sponsored by organizations described herein by fully describing the expenses on the expense vouchers, attaching receipts if possible.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 105 ILCS 5/10-20 and 5/10-22.32.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest)  
2:120 (Board Member Development)  
4:50 (Payment Procedures)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 11, 2008 (Effective March 1, 2008)**

AMENDED: **February 11, 2013 (Effective March 1, 2013)**

## School Board

### Board-Superintendent Relationship

The School Board employs and evaluates the Superintendent and holds him or her responsible for the operation of the District in accordance with Board policies and State and federal law.

The Board-Superintendent relationship is based on mutual respect for their complementary roles. The relationship requires clear communication of expectations regarding the duties and responsibilities of both the Board and Superintendent.

The Board considers the recommendations of the Superintendent as the District's Chief Executive Officer. The Board adopts policies necessary to provide general direction for the District and to encourage achievement of District goals. The Superintendent develops plans, programs, and procedures needed to implement the policies and directs the District's operations.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-21.4.

CROSS REFERENCE: 3:40 (Superintendent)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

## School Board

### Communications To and From the Board

The School Board welcomes communications from the community. Staff members, parents, and community members should submit questions or communications for the School Board's consideration to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall provide the Board with a summary of these questions or communications and provide, as appropriate, his or her feedback regarding the matter. If contacted individually, Board members will refer the person to the appropriate level of authority, except in unusual situations. Board members' questions or communications to staff or about programs will be channeled through the Superintendent's office. Board members will not take private action that might compromise the Board or District. There is no expectation of privacy for any communication sent to the Board or its members individually, whether sent by letter, email, or other means.

### Board Member Use of Electronic Communications

For the purposes of this section, *electronic communications* includes, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, instant messaging, texting, and any form of social networking. Electronic communications to, by, and among Board members, in their capacity as Board members, shall not be used for the purpose of discussing District business. Electronic communications among Board members shall be limited to:

1. Disseminating information; and
2. Messages not involving deliberation, debate, or decision-making.

Electronic communications may contain:

1. Agenda item suggestions
2. Reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places
3. Board meeting agendas or information concerning agenda items
4. Individual responses to questions posed by community members, subject to the other limitations in this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120/.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)  
3:30 (Chain of Command)  
8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **August 8, 2011 (Effective September 1, 2011)**

## School Board

### Committees

The School Board may establish committees to assist with the Board's governance function and, in some situations, to comply with State law requirements. These committees are known as Board committees and report directly to the Board. Committee members may include both Board members and non-Board members depending on the committee's purpose. The Board President makes all Board committee appointments unless specifically stated otherwise. Board committee meetings shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. A Board committee may not take final action on behalf of the Board – it may only make recommendations to the Board.

#### Special Board Committees

A special committee may be created for specific purposes or to investigate special issues. A special committee is automatically dissolved after presenting its final report to the Board or at the Board's discretion.

#### Standing Board Committees

A standing committee is created for an indefinite term although its members will fluctuate. Standing Committees are:

1. Board Policy Committee. This committee researches policy issues, and provides information and recommendations to the Board.
2. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee. This committee assists in the development of student discipline policy and procedure. Its members are parents/guardians and teachers, and may include persons whose expertise or experience is needed. The committee reviews such issues as administering medication in the schools, reciprocal reporting between the School District and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal offenses committed by students, student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, school bus safety procedures, and the dissemination of student conduct information.
3. Behavioral Interventions Committee. This committee develops, and monitors procedures for using behavioral interventions in accordance with Board policy 7:230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*. At the Board President's discretion, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee shall perform the duties assigned to the Behavioral Interventions Committee.

Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the Superintendent or designee to create and use committees that report to him or her or to other staff members.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120.  
105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 and 5/14-8.05.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)  
2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)  
2:240 (Board Policy Development)  
7:190 (Student Discipline)  
7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)



**ADOPTED: June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

**AMENDED: February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

**AMENDED: February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**

**School Board**

**Board Attorney**

The School Board may enter into an agreement for legal services with a specific attorney or law firm. The Board Attorney serves on a retainer or other fee arrangement as determined in advance. The Board Attorney will provide services as described in the agreement for legal services. The District will only pay for legal services that are provided in accordance with the agreement for legal services or are otherwise authorized by this policy or a majority of the Board.

The Superintendent, his or her designee, and the Board President, are each authorized to confer with and/or seek the legal advice of the Board Attorney. The Board may authorize a specific member to confer with legal counsel on its behalf.

The Superintendent may authorize the Board Attorney to represent the District in any legal matter until the Board has an opportunity to consider the matter.

The School Board retains the right to consult with or employ other attorneys and to terminate the service of any attorney.

CROSS REFERENCE: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**

**School Board**

**Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services**

The School Board selects architects, engineers, and land surveyors to provide professional services to the District on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications, and in accordance with State law.

LEGAL REFERENCE: *Shively v. Belleville Township High School District 201*, 769 N.E.2d 1062 (5<sup>th</sup> Dist., Ill. App. 2002), *appeal denied*.  
40 U.S.C. § 541.  
50 ILCS 510/, Local Government Professional Services Selection Act  
105 ILCS 5/10-20.21

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **August 13, 2007 (Effective September 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **February 10, 2014 (Effective March 1, 2014)**

## School Board

### Types of School Board Meetings

#### General

For all meetings of the School Board and its committees, the Superintendent or designee shall satisfy all notice and posting requirements contained herein, as well as the Open Meetings Act. This shall include mailing meeting notifications to news media that have officially requested them, and to others as approved by the School Board. Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are held in the District's main office. Board Policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, governs meeting quorum requirements.

The Superintendent is designated on behalf of the Board and each Board committee to receive the training on compliance with the Open Meetings Act that is required by Section 1.05(a) of that Act. The Superintendent may identify other employees to receive the training. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act as required by Section 1.05(b) of that Act.

#### Regular Meetings

The Board announces the time and place for its regular meetings at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Superintendent shall prepare and make available the calendar of regular Board meetings. The regular meeting calendar may be changed with 10 days' notice in accordance with State law.

A meeting agenda shall be posted at the District's main office and the Board's meeting room, or other location where the meeting is to be held, at least 48 hours before the meeting.

#### Closed Meetings

The Board and Board committees may meet in a closed meeting to consider the following subjects:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
3. The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
4. Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where specifically authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).
5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
7. The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
8. Security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
9. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
10. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
11. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
12. The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the public body or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
13. Self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
14. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
15. Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(28).

The Board may hold a closed meeting, or close a portion of a meeting, by a majority vote of a quorum, taken at an open meeting. The vote of each Board member present, and the reason for the closed meeting, will be publicly disclosed at the time of the meeting and clearly stated in the motion and the meeting minutes.

A single motion calling for a series of closed meetings may be adopted by a School Board quorum when such meetings will involve the same particular matters and are scheduled to be held within 3 months of the vote.

No final School Board action will be taken at a closed meeting.

#### Reconvened or Rescheduled Meetings

A meeting may be rescheduled or reconvened. Public notice of a rescheduled or reconvened meeting shall be given in the same manner as that for a special meeting, except that no public notice is required when the original meeting is open to the public and: (1) is to be reconvened within 24 hours, or (2) an announcement of the time and place of the reconvened meeting was made at the original meeting and there is no change in the agenda.

#### Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President or by any 3 members of the Board by giving notice thereof, in writing, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting to remaining Board members by mail at least 48 hours before the meeting, or by personal service at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Public notice of a special meeting is given by posting a notice at the District’s main office at least 48 hours before the meeting and by notifying the news media that have filed a written request for notice. A meeting agenda shall accompany the notice.

All matters discussed by the Board at any special meeting must be related to a subject on the meeting agenda.

Emergency Meetings

Public notice of emergency meetings shall be given as soon as practical, but in any event, before the meeting to news media that have filed a written request for notice.

Posting on the District Website

In addition to the other notices specified in this policy, the Superintendent or designee shall post the following on the District website: (1) the annual schedule of regular meetings, which shall remain posted until the Board approves a new schedule of regular meetings; (2) a public notice of all Board meetings; and (3) the agenda for each meeting which shall remain posted until the meeting is concluded.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120/, Open Meeting Act.  
5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)  
2:120 (Board Member Development)  
2:210 (Organizational School Board Meetings)  
2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)  
2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)  
6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**

AMENDED: **August 13, 2012 (Effective August 31, 2012)**

AMENDED: **February 11, 2013 (Effective March 1, 2013)**

**School Board**

**Organizational School Board Meeting**

During a March meeting in odd-numbered years, the School Board establishes a date for its organizational meeting to be held sometime after the election authority canvasses the vote, but within 28 days after the consolidated election. The consolidated election is held on the first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years.

At the organizational meeting the following shall occur:

1. Each successful candidate, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the oath of office as provided in Board policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*.
2. The new School Board members shall be seated.
3. The School Board shall elect its officers who assume office immediately upon election.
4. The School Board shall fix a time and date for its regular meetings.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 10 ILCS 5/2A-1 *et seq.*  
105 ILCS 5/10-5, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:30 (School District Elections)  
2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)  
2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)  
2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)  
2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **February 11, 2013 (Effective March 1, 2013)**

**School Board**

**School Board Meeting Procedure**

Agenda

The Board President is responsible for focusing the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content. The Superintendent shall prepare agendas in consultation with the Board President. The President shall designate a portion of the agenda as a consent agenda for those items that usually do not require discussion or explanation before Board action. Upon the request of any Board member, an item will be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for independent consideration.

Each Board meeting agenda shall contain the general subject matter of any item that will be the subject of final action at the meeting. Items submitted by School Board members to the Superintendent or the President shall be placed on the agenda. District residents may suggest inclusions for the agenda. The Board will take final action only on items contained in the posted agenda; items not specifically on the agenda may still be discussed.

The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the agenda, with adequate data and background information, to each Board member at least 48 hours before each meeting, except a meeting held in the event of an emergency. The meeting agenda shall be posted in accordance with policy 2:200, *Types of School Board Meetings*.

The Board President shall determine the order of business at regular Board meetings. Upon consent of a majority of members present, the order of business at any meeting may be changed.

Voting Method

Unless otherwise provided by law, when a vote is taken upon any measure before the Board, with a quorum being present, a majority of the votes cast shall determine its outcome. A vote of "abstain" or "present," or a vote other than "yea" or "nay," or a failure to vote, is counted for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. A vote of "abstain" or "present," or a vote other than "yea" or "nay," or a failure to vote, however, is not counted in determining whether a measure has been passed by the Board, unless otherwise stated in law. The sequence for casting votes is rotated.

On all questions involving the expenditure of money and on all questions involving the closing of a meeting to the public, a roll call vote shall be taken and entered in the Board's minutes. An individual Board member may request that a roll call vote be taken on any other matter; the President or other presiding officer may approve or deny the request but a denial is subject to being overturned by a majority vote of the members present.

Minutes

The Board Secretary or other Board designee shall keep written minutes of all Board meetings (whether open or closed), which shall be signed by the President and Secretary. The minutes include:

1. The meeting's date, time, and place;
2. Board members recorded as either present or absent;
3. A summary of the discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;



4. On all matters requiring a roll call vote, a record of who voted “yea” and “nay”;
5. If the meeting is adjourned to another date, the time and place of the adjourned meeting;
6. The vote of each member present when a vote is taken to hold a closed meeting or portion of a meeting, and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception contained in the Open Meetings Act authorizing the closed meeting;
7. A record of all motions, including individuals making and seconding motions;
8. Upon request by a Board member, a record of how he or she voted on a particular motion; and
9. The type of meeting, including any notices and, if a reconvened meeting, the original meeting's date.

The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval or modification at its next regularly scheduled open meeting. Minutes for open meetings must be approved within 30 days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later.

At least semi-annually in an open meeting, the Board: (1) reviews minutes from all closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, and (2) decides which, if any, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. The Board may meet in a prior closed session to review the minutes from closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release.

The Board's meeting minutes must be submitted to the Board Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require.

A copy of the minutes is kept in a secure location appropriate for valuables. Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 10 days after the Board's approval; they may be inspected in the District's main office, in the presence of the Secretary, the Superintendent or designee, or any Board member. Minutes from closed meetings are likewise available, but only if the Board has released them for public inspection. The minutes shall not be removed from the Superintendent's office except by vote of the School Board or by court order.

The Board's open meeting minutes shall be posted on the District website within 10 days after the Board approves them; the minutes will remain posted for at least 60 days.

#### Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings

The Superintendent, or the Board Secretary when the Superintendent is absent, shall audio record all closed meetings. If neither is present, the Board President or presiding officer shall assume this responsibility. After the closed meeting, the person making the audio recording shall label the recording with the date and store it in a secure location. The Superintendent shall ensure that: (1) an audio recording device and all necessary accompanying items are available to the Board for every closed meeting, and (2) a secure location for storing closed meeting audio recordings is maintained within the District's main office.

After 18 months have passed since being made, the audio recording of a closed meeting is destroyed provided the Board approved: (1) its destruction, and (2) minutes of the particular closed meeting.

Individual Board members may listen to verbatim recordings when that action is germane to their responsibilities. In the interest of encouraging free and open expression by Board members during closed meetings, the recordings of closed meetings should not be used by Board members to confirm or dispute the accuracy of recollections.

#### Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means

A quorum of the Board must be physically present at all Board meetings. A majority of the full membership of the School Board constitutes a quorum.

Provided a quorum is physically present, a Board member may attend a meeting by video or audio conference if he or she is prevented from physically attending because of: (1) personal illness or disability, (2) employment or District business, or (3) a family or other emergency. If a member wishes to attend a meeting by video or audio means, he or she must notify the recording secretary or Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting unless advance notice is impractical. The recording secretary or Superintendent will inform the Board President and make appropriate arrangements. A Board member who attends a meeting by audio or video means, as provided in this policy, may participate in all aspects of the Board meeting including voting on any item.

Rules of Order

Unless State law or Board-adopted rules apply, the Board President, as the presiding officer, will use *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* (10<sup>th</sup> Edition), as a guide when a question arises concerning procedure.

Broadcasting and Recording Board Meetings

Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open Board meeting, such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting, and access to electrical power, should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board President may designate a location for recording equipment, may restrict the movements of individuals who are using recording equipment, or may take such other steps as are deemed necessary to preserve decorum and facilitate the meeting.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120/2a, 120/2.02, 120/2.05, and 120/2.06.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6, 5/10-7, 5/10-12, and 5/10-16.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:150 (Committees)  
2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)  
2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)  
2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

- ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**
- AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**
- AMENDED: **February 9, 2009 (Effective March 1, 2009)**
- AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**
- AMENDED: **February 11, 2013 (Effective March 1, 2013)**

**School Board**

**Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board**

At each regular and special open meeting, members of the public and District employees may comment on or ask questions of the Board, subject to reasonable constraints.

The individuals appearing before the Board are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
2. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, such comments shall be limited to 5 minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when the person has given advance notice of the need to speak for a longer period of time, such person may be allowed to speak for more than 5 minutes.
3. Observe the Board President's decision to shorten public comment to conserve time and give the maximum number of individuals an opportunity to speak.
4. Observe the Board President's decision to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in School Board policy.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the School Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 120/2.06.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**

## **School Board**

### **Board Policy Development**

The School Board governs using written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish Board processes, articulate District ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the basis for monitoring progress toward District ends.

#### **Policy Development**

Anyone may propose new policies, changes to existing policies, or deletion of existing policies. Staff suggestions should be processed through the Superintendent. Suggestions from all others should be made to the Board President or the Superintendent.

A Board Policy Committee will consider all policy suggestions, and provide information and recommendations to the Board.

The Superintendent is responsible for: (1) providing relevant policy information and data to the Board, (2) notifying those who will implement or be affected by or required to implement a proposed policy and obtaining their advice and suggestions, and (3) having policy recommendations drafted into written form for Board deliberation. The Superintendent shall seek the counsel of the Board attorney when appropriate.

#### **Policy Adoption and Dissemination**

Policies or policy revisions will not be adopted at the Board meeting at which they are first introduced, except when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant. Further Board consideration will be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input. The adoption of a policy will serve to supersede all previously adopted policies on the same topic.

The School Board policies are available for public inspection in the District's main office during regular office hours. Copy requests should be made pursuant to Board policy 2:250, *Access to District's Public Records*.

#### **Board Policy Review and Monitoring**

The School Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required. The Board may use an annual policy review and monitoring calendar.

#### **Superintendent Implementation**

The Board will support any reasonable interpretation of School Board policy made by the Superintendent. If reasonable minds differ, the Board will review the applicable policy and consider the need for further clarification.

In the absence of School Board policy, the Superintendent is authorized to take appropriate action.

#### **Suspension of Policies**

The Board, by a majority vote of members present at any meeting, may temporarily suspend a Board policy except those provisions that are controlled by law or contract. The failure to suspend with a specific motion does not invalidate the Board action.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:150 (Committees)  
2:250 (Access to District's Public Records)  
3:40 (Superintendent)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**

AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**

AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**

## School Board

### Access to District's Public Records

Full access to the District's *public records* is available to any person as provided in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this policy, and implementing procedures.

### Freedom of Information Officer

The Superintendent shall serve as the District's Freedom of Information Officer and assumes all the duties and powers of that office as provided in FOIA and this policy. The Superintendent may delegate these duties and powers to one or more designees, but the delegation shall not relieve the Superintendent of the responsibility for the action that was delegated. The Superintendent or designee(s) shall report any FOIA requests and the status of the District's response to the Board at each regular Board meeting.

### Definition

The District's *public records* are defined as records, reports, forms, writings, letters, memoranda, books, papers, maps, photographs, microfilms, cards, tapes, recordings, electronic data processing records, electronic communications, recorded information and all other documentary materials pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of the School District.

### Requesting Records

A request for inspection and/or copies of public records must be made in writing and may be submitted by personal delivery, mail, telefax, or e-mail directed to the District's Freedom of Information Officer. Individuals making a request are not required to state a reason for the request other than to identify when the request is for a commercial purpose or when requesting a fee waiver.

All requests for inspection and copying shall immediately be forwarded to the District's Freedom of Information Officer or designee.

### Responding to Requests

The Freedom of Information Officer shall approve all requests for public records unless:

1. The requested material does not exist;
2. The requested material is exempt from inspection and copying by the Freedom of Information Act; or
3. Complying with the request would be unduly burdensome.

Within 5 business days after receipt of a request for access to a public record, the Freedom of Information Officer shall comply with or deny the request, unless the time for response is extended as specified in Section 3 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer may extend the time for a response for up to 5 business days from the original due date. If an extension is needed, the Freedom of Information Officer shall: (1) notify the person making the request of the reason for the extension, and (2) either inform the person of the date on which a response will be made, or agree with the person in writing on a compliance period.

Notwithstanding the above, the Freedom of Information Officer shall respond to requests for *commercial purposes* and to *recurrent requesters* (as those terms are defined in Section 2 of FOIA) according to Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of FOIA.

When responding to a request for a record containing both exempt and non-exempt material, the Freedom of Information Officer shall redact exempt material from the record before complying with the request.

#### Copying Fees

Persons making a request for copies of public records must pay any applicable copying fee. The Freedom of Information Officer shall, as needed, recommend a copying fee schedule for the Board's approval. Copying fees, except when fixed by statute, are reasonably calculated to reimburse the District's actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records and for the use, by any person, of its equipment to copy records. No copying fee shall be charged for the first 50 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies. No copying fee shall be charged for electronic copies other than the actual cost of the recording medium.

#### Fees for Responding to a Request for a Commercial Purpose

In addition to copying fees, persons making a request for a *commercial purpose*, as defined in FOIA, must pay a fee of \$10 for each hour spent by personnel in searching for and retrieving the record. However, no fees shall be charged for the first 8 hours spent by personnel in searching for or retrieving a requested record. The District also charges the actual cost of retrieving and transporting public records from an off-site storage facility when the public records are maintained by a third-party storage facility under contract with the District. Whenever the District charges any fees to a requester making a commercial request, the Freedom of Information Officer shall provide the requester with an accounting of all fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with the request for public records.

#### Access

The inspection and copying of a public record that is the subject of an approved access request is permitted at the District's administrative office during regular business hours, unless other arrangements are made by the Freedom of Information Officer.

Many public records are immediately available from the District's website including, but not limited to, a description of the District and the methods for requesting a public record.

#### Preserving Public Records

Public records, including e-mail messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g. a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the School Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 5 ILCS 140/, Illinois Freedom of Information Act.  
105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5/24A-7.1.  
820 ILCS 40/11.  
820 ILCS 130/5.

CROSS REFERENCE: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board)

5:150 (Personnel Records)  
7:340 (Student Records)

- ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**
- AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**
- AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**
- AMENDED: **August 8, 2011 (Effective September 1, 2011)**
- AMENDED: **February 13, 2012 (Effective March 1, 2012)**



## School Board

### Uniform Grievance Procedure

A student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member should notify any District Complaint Manager if he or she believes that the School Board, its employees, or agents have violated his or her rights guaranteed by the State or federal Constitution, State or federal statute, or Board policy, or have a complaint regarding any one of the following:

1. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act;
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
4. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*;
5. Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act), 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*;
6. Sexual harassment (Illinois Human Rights Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972);
7. Bullying, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7
8. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children;
9. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs;
10. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180;
11. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112;
12. Provision of services to homeless students
13. Illinois Whistleblower Act, 740 ILCS 174/
14. Misuse of genetic information (Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA), 410 ILCS 513/ and Titles I and II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), 42 U.S.C. §2000ff *et seq.*)
15. Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/.

The Complaint Manager will attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure and, if a complaint is filed, to address the complain promptly and equitably. The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies. All deadlines under this procedure may be extended by the Complaint Manager as he or she deems appropriate. As used in this policy, "school business days" means days on which the District's main office is open.

#### 1. Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail him or herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any District Complaint Manager. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular Complaint Manager and may request a Complaint Manager of the same gender. The Complaint Manager may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with a student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The Complaint Manager shall assist the Complainant as needed.

#### 2. Investigation

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. If the Complainant is a student under 18

years of age, the Complaint Manager will notify his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved. The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant.

The identity of any student witnesses will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law or any collective bargaining agreement, or (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the parent/guardian of the student witness, or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

Within 30 school business days of the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the Superintendent. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time. If a complaint of sexual harassment contains allegations involving the Superintendent, the written report shall be filed with the School Board, which will make a decision in accordance with Section 3 of this policy. The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

3. Decision and Appeal

Within 5 school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's report, the Superintendent shall mail his or her written decision to the Complainant by U.S. mail, first class, as well as to the Complaint Manager.

Within 10 school business days after receiving the Superintendent's decision, the Complainant may appeal the decision to the School Board by making a written request to the Complaint Manager. The Complaint Manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the School Board. Within 30 school business days, the School Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Superintendent's decision or direct the Superintendent to gather additional information. Within 5 school business days of the Board's decision, the Superintendent shall inform the Complainant of the Board's action.

This grievance procedure shall not be construed to create an independent right to a hearing before the Superintendent or Board. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

Appointing Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator to manage the District's efforts to provide equal opportunity employment and educational opportunities and prohibit the harassment of employees, students, and others.

The Superintendent shall appoint at least one Complaint Manager to administer the complaint process in this policy. If possible, the Superintendent will appoint 2 Complaint Managers, one of each gender. The District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be appointed as one of the Complaint Managers. The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and the Complaint Managers.

**Nondiscrimination Coordinator**

Name	<u>Jason D. Henry, Superintendent</u>
Address	<u>4626 State Highway 154</u>
	<u>Sesser, IL 62884</u>

Telephone No. (618) 625-5105, Ext. 105

**Complaint Managers:**

Name	<u>Wesley R. Choate, Principal</u>	<u>Judy L. Logsdon, Principal</u>
Address	<u>4626 State Highway 154</u>	<u>4626 State Highway 154</u>
	<u>Sesser, IL 62884</u>	<u>Sesser, IL 62884</u>
Telephone No.	<u>(618) 625-5105, Ext. 117</u>	<u>(618) 625-5105, Ext. 111</u>

LEGAL REFERENCE: Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.*  
 Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*  
 Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act), 42 U.S.C. §2000e *et seq.*  
 Equal Pay Act, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d).  
 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000ff *et seq.*  
 Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1324a *et seq.*  
 McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 *et seq.*  
 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 791 *et seq.*  
 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*  
 Title IX of the Education Amendments, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*  
 105 ILCS 5/2-3.8, 5/3-10, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4  
 5/27-1, 5/27-23.7, and 45/1-15.  
 Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act, 410 ILCS 513/.  
 Illinois Whistleblower Act, 740 ILCS 174/.  
 775 ILCS 5/1-101  
 Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/.  
 Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180, 56 Ill. Admin.  
 Code part 280.  
 Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112/.  
 Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/.  
 23 Ill. Admin. Code §§1.240 and 200-40

CROSS REFERENCE: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment)  
 5:20 (Sexual Harassment)  
 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)  
 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children)  
 6:170 (Title I Programs)  
 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs)  
 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)  
 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)  
 7:180 (Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment)  
 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)  
 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Complaints)

ADOPTED: **June 12, 2006 (Effective July 1, 2006)**  
 AMENDED: **February 12, 2007 (Effective March 1, 2007)**  
 AMENDED: **February 11, 2008 (Effective March 1, 2008)**  
 AMENDED: **February 8, 2010 (Effective March 1, 2010)**  
 AMENDED: **February 14, 2011 (Effective March 1, 2011)**

AMENDED: **August 13, 2012 (Effective August 31, 2012)**