

## 1001 Organization and Functioning of the Board

**Composition** The Board of Education is comprised of seven members, elected or appointed in accordance with the [RSC](#) and the [Michigan Election Law](#).

**Term of Office** The term of office of each member is six years.

**Oath of Office** Newly elected, reelected, and appointed members of the Board will take the required oath of office before being seated.

**Vacancies** In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the Board may appoint an eligible person to fill the position consistent with [Michigan law](#).

**Duties and Responsibilities of Board Members** Board members are elected to serve the interests of the School District and the entire school community. These interests may not be subordinated to any partisan principle, group, or interest. Board members are expected to be and remain informed about issues that may come before the Board for decision. Regular attendance at Board meetings is necessary to fulfill the obligations of a Board member.

**Role of Individual Board Members** The Board acts as a whole, and only at properly convened Board meetings. An individual Board member lacks independent authority and may not act for or on behalf of the Board unless he/she has been specifically delegated authority by the Board to act in a particular instance.

**Code of Ethics** Each Board member will be asked to acknowledge and sign the following Code of Ethics:

As a member of the Board, I will promote the best interest of the School District as a whole and will adhere to the following ethical standards and principles:

1. I will represent all School District constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to any partisan principal, group, or interest.
2. I will avoid any conflict of interest prohibited by law or appearance of such that could result from my position, and will not use my membership on the Board for personal gain, where contrary to the interests of the School District.
3. I will 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 meeting of the Board.
4. I will take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and will respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
5. I will abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.

6. I will encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and will participate in Board discussions in an open, honest, and respectful manner, honoring differences of opinion or perspective.
7. I will prepare for, attend, and actively participate in School Board meetings.
8. I will become sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the Board.
9. I will respectfully listen to those who communicate with the Board, seeking to understand their views, while recognizing my responsibility to represent the interests of the entire school community.
10. I will strive for a positive working relationship with the Superintendent, respecting the Superintendent's authority to advise the Board, implement Board policy, and administer the School District.
11. I will model continuous learning and work to ensure good governance by taking advantage of Board member development opportunities, including those sponsored by state and national school board associations, and encourage my fellow Board members to do the same.
12. I will strive to keep the Board focused on its primary work of clarifying the School District purpose, direction and goals, and monitoring District performance.

**Confidentiality** Board members will receive information that is not available to the general public. This includes information that is received during a closed session of the Board. In order for the proper functioning of the Board, an individual Board member will not share confidential information without the prior authorization of the Board or as may be required by law.

**Conflict of Interest** If a relative (father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, or spouse; father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law; step-father, step-mother, step-son, step-daughter; step- or half-brother; step- or half-sister; or, any other persons who reside at the same location as a Board member) of a Board member is already an employee of the School District, such Board member shall abstain from voting on any matter affecting the employment status of the employee.

**New Members** Board service requires considerable preparation and study. New Board members are strongly encouraged to participate in orientation and educational activities to acquaint themselves with the duties and responsibilities of a Board member.

**Committees** The Board may create various committees to gather information for the Board. Committee members will be appointed by the Board President. A committee will not consist of more than three (3) Board members.

**Election of Officers of the Board** The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Board will be elected at the Board's annual organizational meeting in July. The vote of a majority of the Board members elected and serving will be necessary for election to these offices. The elected officers will hold office for one year, and continue in office until their successors are chosen and take office. Board officers are eligible for reelection to their office.

**President** The President of the Board will preside at all meetings of the Board and conduct meetings in the manner prescribed by these Bylaws. The President will prepare the agenda for Board meetings in consultation with the Superintendent and may perform such other tasks as are reasonably necessary to facilitate Board meetings.

The President, or his/her designee, functions as the official spokesperson for the Board. The President will be the official recipient of correspondence directed to the Board and will provide copies of School District related correspondence to all other Board members and, in his/her discretion, to the Superintendent. Board members who receive School District related correspondence that was not addressed to the President will promptly provide a copy to the President.

The President will sign all papers and documents required by law or otherwise authorized by action of the Board.

The President, on behalf of the Board, is authorized to consult with the Superintendent and/or School District legal counsel prior to presentation of an issue to the full Board.

**Vice-President** The Vice-President of the Board will have the powers and duties of the President during the temporary absence or disability of the President. The Vice-President will also have such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

**Treasurer** The Treasurer of the Board will sign all School District documents required by law or otherwise authorized by action of the Board and perform other duties required by law and/or assigned by the Board.

**Secretary** The Secretary of the Board will be responsible for taking and keeping the Board minutes in conformity with applicable legal requirements and performing such other duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

**Vacancies in Officer Positions** In the event of a vacancy in a Board office, the Board will elect a successor to serve for the balance of the term.

**Removal from Office** The Board may remove a person from an elected Board office by a majority vote of the serving members. Removal from an office does not constitute removal from the Board.

**Compensation** Board members will be paid a stipend, as determined by the Board, for attendance at each meeting of the Board, including committee meetings and Board study sessions.

**Reimbursement of Expenses** In addition to compensation for meeting attendance, Board members will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties, as well as for attending Board approved activities and functions. Board members are expected to exercise good judgment and ensure that expenditures incurred are reasonable, necessary, and in the best interest of the School District. Board members will not be reimbursed for entertainment expenses or the purchase of alcoholic beverages.

**Indemnification** The School District will indemnify the Board and individual Board members to the extent permitted by law. The School District will also purchase and keep in effect insurance policies for the defense and indemnification of the Board and individual Board members.

**Discipline and Removal** By a majority vote, the Board may censure an individual Board member or members for violating federal or Michigan law, these Bylaws or Board policy, or otherwise acting in a manner inconsistent with the office of a Board member. By a majority vote, the Board may petition the Governor to remove an individual Board member or members from the Board for any reason permitted by law.

**Professional Services** The Board may select and appoint qualified individuals or firms to provide professional services to the District for legal, architectural, and auditing/accounting services. In making such selections, the Board will, minimally, consider certifications, licenses, training, and experience.