

**ROLE OF THE BOARD**

The Board of Education has been elected by the community to provide leadership and citizen oversight of the district. The Board shall ensure that the district is responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of the community.

The Board shall work with the Superintendent to fulfill its major responsibilities, which include:

1. Setting the direction for the district through a process that involves the community, parents/guardians, students, and staff and is focused on student learning and achievement

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

2. Establishing an effective and efficient organizational structure for the district by:

- a. Employing the Superintendent and setting policy for hiring of other personnel

*(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)*

*(cf. 2120 - Superintendent Recruitment and Selection)*

*(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)*

*(cf. 4000 - Concepts and Roles)*

*(cf. 4111/4211/4311 - Recruitment and Selection)*

- b. Overseeing the development and adoption of policies

*(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)*

- c. Establishing academic expectations and adopting the curriculum and instructional materials

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

*(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)*

*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)*

- d. Establishing budget priorities and adopting the budget

*(cf. 3000 - Concepts and Roles)*

*(cf. 3100 - Budget)*

*(cf. 3312 - Contracts)*

**ROLE OF THE BOARD** (continued)

- e. Providing safe, adequate facilities that support the district's instructional program

*(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)*  
*(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)*  
*(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)*  
*(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)*

- f. Setting parameters for negotiations with employee organizations and ratifying collective bargaining agreements

*(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)*  
*(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)*

- 3. Providing support to the Superintendent and staff as they carry out the Board's direction by:

- a. Establishing and adhering to standards of responsible governance

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*  
*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*  
*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*  
*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

- b. Making decisions and providing resources that support district priorities and goals
- c. Upholding Board policies
- d. Being knowledgeable about district programs and efforts in order to serve as effective spokespersons

*(cf. 9240 - Board Development)*  
*(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)*

- 4. Ensuring accountability to the public for the performance of the district's schools by:

- a. Evaluating the Superintendent and setting policy for the evaluation of other personnel

*(cf. 2140- Evaluation of the Superintendent)*  
*(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)*  
*(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)*  
*(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/Supervision)*

**ROLE OF THE BOARD** (continued)

- b. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies
  - c. Serving as a judicial (hearing) and appeals body in accordance with law, Board policies, and negotiated agreements
    - (cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
    - (cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
    - (cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
    - (cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
    - (cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)
    - (cf. 4117.3 - Personnel Reduction)
    - (cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
    - (cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)
    - (cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
    - (cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)
    - (cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)
    - (cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
    - (cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)
    - (cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
    - (cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)
    - (cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)
  - d. Monitoring student achievement and program effectiveness and requiring program changes as necessary
    - (cf. 0500 - Accountability)
    - (cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
    - (cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)
    - (cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)
  - e. Monitoring and adjusting district finances
    - (cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)
  - f. Monitoring the collective bargaining process
5. Providing community leadership and advocacy on behalf of students, the district's educational program, and public education in order to build support within the local community and at the state and national levels
- (cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)
  - (cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)
  - (cf. 1112 - Media Relations)
  - (cf. 1160 - Political Processes)
  - (cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
  - (cf. 1700 - Relations between Private Industry and the Schools)
  - (cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

## **ROLE OF THE BOARD** (continued)

The Board is authorized to establish and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. (Education Code 35160)

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

*5304 Duties of governing board (re school district elections)*  
*12400-12405 Authority to participate in federal programs*  
*17565-17592 Board duties re property maintenance and control*  
*33319.5 Implementation of authority of local agencies*  
*35000 District name*  
*35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*  
*35020-35046 Officers and agents*  
*35100-35351 Governing boards, especially:*  
*35160-35185 Powers and duties*  
*35291 Rules*

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Professional Governance Standards, November 2000*

#### NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

*The Key Work of School Boards, 2000*

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

**GOVERNANCE STANDARDS**

The Board of Education believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of every student in the district. The Board also has major commitments to parents/guardians, all members of the community, employees, the state of California, laws pertaining to public education, and established policies of the district. To maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in district governance, Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

The Board expects its members to work with each other and the Superintendent to ensure that a high-quality education is provided to each student. Each individual Board member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
2. Value, support and advocate for public education

*(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community
4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior
5. Keep confidential matters confidential

*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader

*(cf. 9240 - Board Development)*

7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the Superintendent and staff

*(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)*

8. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

**GOVERNANCE STANDARDS** (continued)

Board members also shall assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the Board shall have a unity of purpose and:

1. Keep the district focused on learning and achievement for all students
2. Communicate a common vision

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity
4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures

*(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)*

6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance
7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness

*(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)*

8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## **GOVERNANCE STANDARDS (continued)**

*Legal Reference:*

**EDUCATION CODE**

*35010 Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance*

*35160 Board authority to act in any manner not conflicting with law*

*35164 Actions by majority vote*

**GOVERNMENT CODE**

*1090 Financial interest in contract*

*1098 Disclosure of confidential information*

*1125-1129 Incompatible activities*

*54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act*

*87300-87313 Conflict of interest code*

*Management Resources:*

**CSBA PUBLICATIONS**

*CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000*

**WEB SITES**

*CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>*

**PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

The Board of Education recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the district, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding district issues, Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives to communicate its positions and to abide by established protocols.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or other designated representative.

*(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)*

*(cf. 9121 - President)*

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

When speaking for the district, the Board encourages its spokespersons to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.

Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54963)

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

When speaking to community groups, members of the public, or the media, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board.

*(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)*

*(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for district students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

*(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)*

*(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)*

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*

*(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)*



## **PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

*35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*

GOVERNMENT CODE

*6250-6270 California Public Records Act*

*54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions*

*54963 Confidential information in closed session*

*Management Resources:*

WEB SITES

*CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>*

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL/PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of information acquired as part of a Board member's official duties. Confidential/privileged information shall be released only to the extent authorized by law.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

**Disclosure of Closed Session Information**

A Board member shall not disclose confidential information acquired during a closed session to a person not entitled to receive such information, unless a majority of the Board has authorized its disclosure. (Government Code 54963)

*Confidential information* means a communication made in a closed session that is specifically related to the basis for the Board to meet lawfully in closed session. (Government Code 54963)

*(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

*(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)*

The Board shall not take any action against any person for disclosing confidential information, nor shall the disclosure be considered a violation of the law or Board policy, when the person is: (Government Code 54963)

1. Making a confidential inquiry or complaint to a district attorney or grand jury concerning a perceived violation of law, including disclosing facts necessary to establish the illegality or potential illegality of a Board action that has been the subject of deliberation during a closed session
2. Expressing an opinion concerning the propriety or legality of Board action in closed session, including disclosure of the nature and extent of the illegal or potentially illegal action
3. Disclosing information that is not confidential

**Other Disclosures**

A Board member shall not disclose, for pecuniary gain, confidential information acquired in the course of his/her official duties. Confidential information includes information that is not a public record subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, information that by law may not be disclosed, or information that may have a material financial effect on the Board member. (Government Code 1098)

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL/PRIVILEGED INFORMATION** (continued)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - *Personnel Files*)  
(cf. 5125 - *Student Records*)

Disclosures excepted from this prohibition are those made to law enforcement officials or to the joint legislative audit committee when reporting on improper governmental activities. (Government Code 1098)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance

35146 Closed session

EVIDENCE CODE

1040 Privilege for official information

GOVERNMENT CODE

1098 Public officials and employees re confidential information

3549.1 Meeting and negotiating in public educational employment

6250-6270 Inspection of public records

54950-54963 Brown Act, especially:

54956.8 Open meeting laws

54956.9 Closed meeting for pending litigation

54957 Closed session; "employee" defined; exclusion of witnesses

54957.1 Subsequent public report and rollcall vote; employee matters in closed session

54957.5 Public records

54957.6 Closed session; representatives with employee organization

54957.7 Reasons for closed session

54963 Confidential information in closed session

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 231 (1997)

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards, November 2000

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board of Education recognizes that electronic communication is an efficient and convenient way for Board members to communicate and expedite the exchange of information within the district and with members of the public. Board members shall exercise caution so as to ensure that electronic communications are not used as a means for the Board to deliberate outside of an agendized Board meeting nor to circumvent the public's right to access records regarding district business.

*(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)*

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

Like other writings concerning district business, a Board member's electronic communication may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

In order to minimize the risk of improper disclosure, Board members shall avoid reference to confidential information and information acquired during closed session.

A majority of the Board shall not, outside of an authorized meeting, use a series of electronic communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Government Code 54952.2)

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

Examples of permissible electronic communications concerning district business include, but are not limited to, dissemination of Board meeting agendas and agenda packets, reports of activities from the Superintendent, and reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places.

In addition, Board members may use electronic communications to discuss matters that do not pertain to district business, regardless of the number of Board members participating in the discussion.

Board members shall make every effort to ensure that their electronic communications conform to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication. A Board member may respond, as appropriate, to an electronic communication received from a member of the community and should make clear that his/her response does not necessarily reflect the views of the Board as a whole. Any complaint or request for information should be forwarded to the Superintendent in accordance with Board bylaws and protocols so that the issue may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process. As appropriate, communication received from the media shall be forwarded to the designated district spokesperson.

*(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*

*(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*

*(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*

## **BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS (continued)**

(cf. 1312.3 - *Uniform Complaint Procedures*)  
(cf. 1312.4 - *Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures*)  
(cf. 3320 - *Claims and Actions Against the District*)  
(cf. 9005 - *Governance Standards*)  
(cf. 9121 - *President*)  
(cf. 9200 - *Limits of Board Member Authority*)

To the extent possible, electronic communications regarding any district-related business shall be transmitted through a district-provided device or account. When any such communication is transmitted through a Board member's personal device or account, he/she shall copy the communication to a district electronic storage device for easy retrieval.

(cf. 1340 - *Access to District Records*)  
(cf. 3580 - *District Records*)

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

35140 *Time and place of meetings*  
35145 *Public meetings*  
35145.5 *Agenda; public participation; regulations*  
35147 *Open meeting law exceptions and applications*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 *California Public Records Act*  
11135 *State programs and activities, discrimination*  
54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*  
54952.2 *Meeting, defined*  
54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance*  
54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements, board actions*

#### COURT DECISIONS

*City of San Jose v. Superior Court* (2017) 2 Cal.5th 608

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Legal Alert: Tips for Governing Boards in Response to Public Records Act Ruling on Electronic Communications*, March 2017

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, rev. 2014

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies*, 2003

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CSBA, Agenda Online: <https://www.csba.org/ProductsAndServices/AllServices/AgendaOnline.aspx>

California Attorney General's Office: <https://oag.ca.gov>

**ORGANIZATION****Annual Organizational Meeting**

Each year, the Board of Education shall hold an annual organizational meeting. In any year in which a regular election of district Board members is conducted, the organizational meeting shall be held within a 15-day period beginning from the date upon which a Board member elected at that election takes office. During non-election years, the meeting shall be held within the same 15-day period on the calendar. (Education Code 35143)

The day and time of the annual meeting shall be selected by the Board at its regular meeting held immediately prior to the first day of the 15-day period. On behalf of the Board, the Superintendent shall notify the County Superintendent of Schools of the day and time selected. Within 15 days prior to the date of the annual meeting, the clerk of the Board, with the assistance of the Superintendent, shall notify in writing all Board members and members-elect of the date and time selected for the meeting. (Education Code 35143)

At this meeting the Board shall:

1. Elect a president and a clerk and/or vice president from its members
2. Appoint the Superintendent as secretary to the Board
3. Authorize signatures
4. Approve a schedule of regular meetings for the year and a Board governance calendar stating the time when the Board will address important governance matters
5. Designate Board representatives to serve on committees or commissions of the district, other public agencies, or organizations with which the district partners or collaborates

*(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)*

6. Review and/or consider resources that define and clarify the Board's governance and leadership roles and responsibilities including, but not limited to, governance standards, meeting protocols, Board rules and bylaws, and other Board development materials

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9230 - Orientation)*

*(cf. 9240 - Board Development)*

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

## **ORGANIZATION** (continued)

### **Election of Officers**

The Board shall each year elect its entire slate of officers.

The election of Board officers shall be conducted during an open session of the annual organizational meeting.

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### EDUCATION CODE

5017 *Term of office*

35143 *Annual organizational meeting date, and notice*

35145 *Public meetings*

##### GOVERNMENT CODE

54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance*

##### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 65 (1985)

59 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 619, 621-622 (1976)

**TERMS OF OFFICE**

The Board of Education shall consist of seven members whose terms shall be staggered so that as nearly as practicable, one half of the members shall be elected in each year in which the Board's elections are regularly held. (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)*

The term of office for Board members elected in regular elections shall be four years, commencing on the second Friday in December following their election. (Education Code 5017)

*(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)*

*(cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation)*

*(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)*

Board members shall be elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year. The terms of office of the four board members representing trustees area two, four, five, and seven expire on the second Friday of December of 2016 and every four years thereafter. The terms of office of the board members representing trustee areas one, three and six expire on the second Friday of December of 2018 and every four years thereafter.

The four-three pattern of board elections with two-year intervals shall continue until there is a change in the legal statutes that established this procedure.

Board members whose terms have expired shall continue to discharge the duties of office until their successors have qualified by taking the oath of office. (Education Code 5017; Government Code 1302, 1360)

If a regularly scheduled Board election date is changed due to consolidation with a statewide or municipal general election, the term of incumbent Board members shall be extended to align with the next applicable election. (Elections Code 10404.5)

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*



**TERMS OF OFFICE** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

5000-5033 *Election of school district board members*

35010 *Control of district*

35012 *Board members; number, election and terms*

35107 *Eligibility*

ELECTIONS CODE

1302 *Local elections, school district election*

10400-10418 *Consolidation of elections*

14050-14057 *California Voter Participation Rights Act*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1302 *Continuance in office until qualification of successor*

1303 *Exercising functions of office without having qualified*

1360 *Necessity of taking constitutional oath*

*Management Resources:*

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**PRESIDENT**

The Board of Education shall elect a president from among its members to provide leadership on behalf of the governance team and the educational community it serves.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9100 - Organization)*

To ensure that Board meetings are conducted in an efficient, transparent, and orderly manner, the president shall:

1. Call such meetings of the Board as he/she may deem necessary, giving notice as required by law

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

2. Consult with the Superintendent or designee on the preparation of Board meeting agendas

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

3. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time and preside over the meeting
4. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order
5. Enforce the Board's bylaws related to the conduct of meetings and help ensure compliance with applicable requirements of the Brown Act
6. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference
7. Facilitate the Board's effective deliberation, ensuring that each Board member has an opportunity to participate in the deliberation and that the discussion remains focused
8. Rule on issues of parliamentary procedure
9. Put motions to a vote, and clearly state the results of the vote

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

The president shall have the same rights as other members of the Board, including the right to move, second, discuss and vote on all matters before the Board.

**PRESIDENT** (continued)

The president shall perform other duties in accordance with law and Board policy including, but not limited to:

1. Signing all instruments, acts, orders, and resolutions necessary to comply with legal requirements and carry out the will of the Board
2. Working with the Superintendent or designee to ensure that Board members have necessary materials and information
3. Subject to Board approval, appointing and dissolving all committees

*(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)*

4. In conjunction with the Superintendent or designee, representing the district as the Board's spokesperson in communications with the media

*(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*

5. Leading the Board's advocacy efforts to build support within the local community and at the state and national levels

The president shall participate in the California School Boards Association's Board President's Workshop and other professional development opportunities to enhance his/her leadership skills.

*(cf. 9240 - Board Training)*

When the president resigns or is absent, the vice president shall perform the president's duties. When both the president and vice president are absent, the clerk shall perform the president's duties.

*(cf. 9123 - Clerk)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**PRESIDENT** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

35022 *President of the board*

35143 *Annual organizational meetings; dates and notice*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *Ralph M. Brown Act*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Call to Order: A Blueprint for Great Board Meetings, 2015*

*Board Presidents' Handbook, revised 2002*

*CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000*

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**SECRETARY**

The Board of Education shall appoint the Superintendent to serve as secretary to the Board. The secretary to the Board shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate and complete record of all Board proceedings and shall:

1. Prepare, distribute and maintain the Board agenda  
*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*
2. Record, distribute and maintain the Board minutes  
*(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)*
3. Maintain Board records and documents
4. Conduct official correspondence for the Board
5. As directed by the Board, sign and execute official papers
6. Perform other duties as assigned by the Board

*(cf. 2111 - Superintendent Governance Standards)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

35025 Secretary and bookkeeper

35143 Annual organizational meetings; dates and notice

35250 Duty to keep certain records and reports

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**CLERK**

The Board of Education shall elect a clerk from its own membership at the annual organizational meeting. (Education Code 35143)

*(cf. 9100 - Organization)*

The duties of the clerk shall be to:

1. Certify or attest to actions taken by the Board when required
2. Maintain such other records or reports as required by law
3. Sign documents on behalf of the district as directed by the Board
4. Serve as presiding officer in the absence of the president and vice president

*(cf. 9121 - President)*

5. Notify Board members and members-elect of the date and time for the annual organizational meeting
6. Perform any other duties assigned by the Board

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

17593 *Repair and supervision of property (duty of district clerk)*

35038 *Appointment of clerk by county superintendent of schools*

35039 *Dismissal of clerk*

35121 *Appointment of clerk in certain city and high school districts*

35143 *Annual organizational meetings*

35250 *Duty to keep certain records and reports*

38113 *Duty of clerk (re provision of school supplies)*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *Ralph M. Brown Act*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**ATTORNEY**

The Board of Education recognizes the complex legal environment in which districts operate and desires reliable, high-quality legal advice at reasonable rates. In order to meet the district's legal needs, the Board may contract with county counsel, attorneys in private practice, or appoint legal counsel as a district employee or independent contractor. The Board also supports pursuing collaborative legal efforts with other agencies and districts as appropriate.

*(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)*

*(cf. 3400 - Management of District Assets/Accounts)*

*(cf. 4312.1 - Contracts)*

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9260 - Legal Protection)*

**Duties of Legal Counsel**

The district's legal counsel may: (Education Code 35041.5)

1. Render legal advice to the Board and the Superintendent or designee
2. Serve the Board and the Superintendent or designee in the preparation and conduct of district litigation and administrative proceedings
3. Render advice on school bond and tax increase measures and prepare the necessary forms for the voting of these measures
4. Perform other administrative duties as assigned by the Board and Superintendent or designee

**Retaining Legal Counsel**

When the district is seeking legal advice or representation, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) to advertise and solicit proposals for legal services. In evaluating the proposals, the Board and Superintendent shall consider the firm's or attorney's background, experience, and reputation in education law; experience advising or representing school districts in California; fees; and experience of attorneys at the firm who will provide legal services.

The Board and Superintendent shall annually evaluate the performance of the firm and/or attorneys providing legal services in such areas as efficiency and adequacy of advice; results obtained for the district; reasonableness of fees; and responsiveness to and interactions with the Board, administration, and community. Upon a successful evaluation, the Board may renew the agreement with legal counsel without initiating an RFP.

## **ATTORNEY** (continued)

The Board may also contract for temporary, specialized legal services without initiating an RFP when a majority of the Board determines that the unique demands of a particular issue or emergency situation so requires.

*(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)*

### **Contacting Legal Counsel**

At his/her discretion, the Board president or Superintendent may confer with district legal counsel subject to any limits or parameters established by the Board. In addition, the Superintendent or Board president may contact district legal counsel to provide the Board with legal information or advice when so directed by a majority of the Board.

Individual Board members other than the Board president may not seek advice from district legal counsel on matters of district business unless so authorized by a majority of the Board.

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### EDUCATION CODE

35041 Administrative adviser

35041.5 Legal counsel

35161 Powers and duties of governing board

35200-35214 Liabilities, especially:

35204 Contract with attorney in private practice

35205 Contract for legal services

##### GOVERNMENT CODE

814-895.8 Liability of public entities and public employees

995-996.6 Defense of public employees

26520 Legal services to school districts

53060 Special services and advice

*Management Resources: (see next page)*



**ATTORNEY** (continued)

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, rev. 2014

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

*Selecting and Working with a School Attorney: A Guide for School Boards*, 1997

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Council of School Attorneys:

<http://www.csba.org/LegislationAndLegal/Legal/CaliforniaCouncilOfSchoolAttorneys.aspx>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

State Bar of California: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>

**BOARD COMMITTEES**

The Board of Education may establish a committee whenever it determines that such a committee would benefit the district by providing diverse viewpoints, specialized knowledge or expertise, or increased efficiency. Such committees may be subcommittees of the Board or committees that include members of the community, staff, or other stakeholder groups.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

*(cf. 2230 - Representative and Deliberative Groups)*

*(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)*

Upon establishing a committee, the Board shall clearly define the committee's purpose, any timeline for completion of assigned responsibilities, any stakeholder groups or individuals to be represented on the committee, length of time that committee members are expected to serve, and expectations for reporting to the Board and/or the Superintendent or designee. Unless specifically authorized by the Board to act on its behalf, the committee shall act in an advisory capacity.

Except for subcommittees of the Board, committee members shall, as appropriate, be recommended by the Superintendent or designee and appointed by the Board president, subject to Board approval.

*(cf. 9121 - President)*

The Superintendent or designee shall provide committee members with information and assistance necessary for the fulfillment of the committee's charges, and may serve as a non-voting advisor to the committee at the discretion of the Board.

Whenever so charged, committees may actively seek input and participation by parents/guardians, staff, community, and students and may consult with local public boards and agencies.

Any committee not required by law may be dissolved when its duties or term has been completed or whenever the Board deems necessary.

**Committee Meetings**

Note: Unless otherwise exempted by law, Government Code 54952 provides that open meeting laws (the Brown Act) apply to any commission, committee, board, or other legislative body created by formal action of the Board, regardless of whether that body is permanent or temporary, decision making or advisory; also see BP/AR 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees. These requirements include posting a meeting notice or agenda at least 72 hours before a regular meeting or 24 hours before a special meeting pursuant to Government Code 54954.2 and 54956; see BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices.

In Frazer v. Dixon Unified School District, the court held that the adoption of a Board policy that required the appointment of a curriculum committee to advise the Superintendent, and in turn the Board, was a committee created by "formal Board action" within the meaning of Government Code 54952. Therefore, the committee's meetings were subject to the Brown Act.

## **BOARD COMMITTEES** (continued)

The district should consult legal counsel when questions arise regarding the applicability of Brown Act requirements to district or school committees.
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Unless otherwise exempted by law, Board-created committees shall provide public notice of their meetings and conduct meetings in accordance with Government Code 54950-54963 (the Brown Act).

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

However, Board subcommittees composed solely of less than a quorum of the members of the Board are not subject to open meeting laws unless they are standing committees. Standing committees of the Board, irrespective of membership, are those that have a continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule established by action of the Board. (Government Code 54952)

Standing committees with a continuing subject matter jurisdiction include, but are not limited to, those responsible for providing advice on budgets, audits, Board policy, contracts, and personnel matters at the Board's request.

*(cf. 3100 - Budget)*

*(cf. 3430 - Investing)*

*(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)*

When a majority of the members of the Board attend an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee, the Board members who are not members of the standing committee shall attend only as observers. (Government Code 54952.2)

Whenever any advisory or standing committee, including a committee not otherwise subject to the Brown Act, posts a meeting agenda at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, that meeting shall be considered as a regular meeting of the Board for purposes of the Brown Act and therefore must be held within district boundaries unless otherwise authorized by law. (Government Code 54954)

Committees may meet in a closed session during a regular or special meeting only for those purposes specifically authorized by law for closed sessions held by the Board.

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## **BOARD COMMITTEES (continued)**

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

35010 *Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*

35024 *Executive committee*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

35160.1 *Broad authority of school districts*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *The Brown Act, especially:*

54952 *Legislative body, definition*

54952.2 *Definition of meeting*

54954 *Time and place of regular meetings; special meetings; emergencies*

54954.3 *Opportunity for public to address legislative body*

54957 *Closed session purposes*

#### COURT DECISIONS

*Frazer v. Dixon Unified School District*, (1993) 18 Cal.App.4th 781

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

81 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 156 (1998)

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 308 (1997)

79 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 69 (1996)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, 2014

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

The Board of Education recognizes that effective performance of its community leadership responsibilities may require its participation in district or community committees on matters of concern to the district and its students. As needed, the Board may appoint any of its members to serve as its representative on a district committee or on a committee of another public agency or organization of which the Board or district is a member or to which the Board is invited to participate.

*(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)*

*(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)*

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)*

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

When making such appointments, the Board shall clearly specify the authority and responsibilities of the representative(s), including, but not limited to, reporting back to the Board regarding committee activities and/or actions. Board representatives shall not exercise the authority of the Board without prior Board approval.

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

If a committee discusses a topic on which the Board has taken a position, the Board member shall express the position of the Board. When contributing his/her own ideas or opinions, the representative shall clearly indicate that he/she is expressing his/her individual idea or opinion.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

*(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

**Board Representative to Elect Members of County Committee on School District Organization**

At its annual organizational meeting, the Board shall designate one Board member as its representative to elect members to the county committee on school district organization. (Education Code 35023)

*(cf. 9100 - Organization)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVES** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

4000-4014 *County committees on school district organization*

35020-35046 *School district officers and agents (power of governing board to employ or appoint)*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54952.2 *Meetings*

*Management Resources:*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California Department of Education District Organization Handbook, 2010

## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

In order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Board of Education and the student body and to teach students the importance of civic involvement, the Board supports the participation of high school students in district governance.

### **Petition**

High school students may submit a petition to the Board requesting the appointment of at least one student Board member. (Education Code 35012)

To qualify for Board consideration, the petition for student representation shall contain the signatures of no less than 500 regularly enrolled high school students or no less than 10 percent of the number of regularly enrolled high school students, whichever is less. (Education Code 35012)

Within 60 days of receiving a student petition, or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting if no meeting is held within those 60 days, the Board shall order the inclusion of at least one student member on the Board. (Education Code 35012)

### **Student Board Member Development**

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall, at district expense, provide learning opportunities to student Board members, through trainings, workshops, and conferences, to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and performance of their Board responsibilities.

The Superintendent or designee may periodically provide an orientation for student Board member candidates to give them an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of Board service.

### **Role and Responsibilities of Student Board Members**

Student Board member(s) shall have the right to attend all Board meetings except closed (executive) sessions. (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

All materials presented to Board members, except those related to closed sessions, shall be presented to student Board members at the same time they are presented to voting Board members. Student Board member(s) shall also be invited to attend staff briefings or be provided with a separate staff briefing within the same timeframe as the briefing of other Board members. (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS** (continued)

Student Board member(s) shall be recognized at Board meetings as full member(s), shall be seated with other members of the Board, and shall be allowed to participate in questioning witnesses and discussing issues. (Education Code 35012)

Student Board member(s) shall be allowed to cast preferential votes on all matters except those subject to closed session discussion. *Preferential voting* means a formal expression of opinion that is recorded in the minutes and cast before the official vote of the Board. Preferential votes shall not affect the final numerical outcome of a vote. (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)*

Student Board member(s) may make motions that may be acted upon by the Board, except on matters dealing with employer-employee relations pursuant to Government Code 3540-3549.3. (Education Code 35012)

A student Board member shall not be liable for any acts of the Board. (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)*

Student Board member(s) shall be entitled to be reimbursed for mileage to the same extent as other members of the Board but shall not receive compensation for attendance at Board meetings. (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)*

*(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)*

## **Student Board Member Development**

The Superintendent or designee may, at district expense, provide learning opportunities to student Board members through trainings, workshops, and conferences, such as those offered by the California School Boards Association and other organizations, to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and performance of their Board responsibilities.

*(cf. 9240 - Board Training)*

The Superintendent or designee may periodically provide an orientation for student Board member candidates to give them an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of Board service.



## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

### **Elimination of Position**

Once established, the student Board member position shall continue to exist until the Board, by majority vote of all voting Board members, approves a motion to eliminate the position. Such a motion shall be listed as a public agenda item for a Board meeting prior to the motion being voted upon. (Education Code 35012)

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### EDUCATION CODE

33000.5 Appointment of student member to State Board of Education

35012 Board members; number, election and terms; student members

35160 Authority of governing boards

##### GOVERNMENT CODE

3540-3549.3 Educational Employment Relations Act

#### *Management Resources:*

##### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Association of Student Councils: <http://www.casc.net>

California Association of Student Leaders: <http://www.caslboard.com>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER GUIDELINES**

**Duties of Student Board Member**

The duties of the student Board member include the following:

1. To attend all scheduled Board meetings, except closed sessions.
2. To provide continuing input for Board deliberations.
3. To strengthen communications between the Board and district students.
4. To represent all students in all district high schools and facilitate the discussion of all sides of issues. This duty does not preclude the student Board member from stating his/her individual opinion. All district high schools include American Canyon, Napa, Napa Valley Independent Study, New Technology, Vintage and Valley Oak High Schools.

**Selection and Term**

The student Board member shall be selected by the Board among students elected by the student representatives from each high school of the district as follows:

1. Students interested in being a student Board member shall submit applications to the elected student representatives at their high school within a time frame determined by the Board. The application and selection of student Board members shall be based on the following criteria and process.
2. The elected student representatives of the student body of each high school shall vote for one student to be recommended to the Board for their consideration and selection of the Student Board member. If no applications are received, the student representatives may appoint a candidate.
3. The Board shall review the applications and conduct interviews with each student whose name was forwarded by each high school and select the student Board member based on the above criteria.
4. The term of office shall be July 1 - June 30.

**Vacancy**

An alternate will be named at the time of the appointment to assume responsibilities should the standard Board member become unable to serve.

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS** (continued)

**Board Materials/Information**

The Superintendent or designee's office shall provide the student Board member with full and complete agendas and copies of any materials received by the Board except for those materials covered in closed session and any other confidential materials. The Superintendent's office shall serve as the "home office" for the student Board member, where he/she may make use of secretarial facilities and receive advice and/or information upon request.

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

**RESOLUTION  
STUDENT BOARD MEMBER MOTIONS**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Napa Valley Unified School District includes one student Board member, and;

WHEREAS, California Education Code 35012 provides that the Board may authorize its student member(s) to make motions that may be acted upon by the Board, except on matters dealing with employer-employee relations pursuant to Government Code 3540-3549.3, and

WHEREAS, The Board desires to authorize its student member to make motions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board hereby authorizes its student member to make motions as specified above.

Passed and Adopted by the Board of Education of the Napa Valley Unified School District,  
on \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:  
(date)

Ayes:\_\_\_\_\_

Noes:\_\_\_\_\_

Absent:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

Attested by:\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the Board

**LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY**

The Board of Education recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the district and that a Board member has no individual authority. Board members shall hold the education of students above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

*(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)*  
*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*  
*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*  
*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*  
*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee. Individual Board members shall submit requests for information to the Superintendent. Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the Superintendent for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda, as appropriate.

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*  
*(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)*  
*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*  
*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

Individual Board members do not have the authority to resolve complaints. Any Board member approached directly by a person with a complaint should refer the complainant to the Superintendent or designee so that the problem may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate district process.

*(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*  
*(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*  
*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*  
*(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)*  
*(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)*  
*(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)*  
*(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)*

A Board member whose child is attending a district school should be aware of his/her role as a Board member when interacting with district employees about his/her child. Because his/her position as a Board member may inhibit the performance of school personnel, the Board member should inform the Superintendent or designee before volunteering in his/her child's classroom.

*(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)*  
*(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)*  
*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

**LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY** (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of the state's open meeting laws (Brown Act) to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board but has not yet assumed office.

Board members and persons elected to the Board who have not yet assumed office are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.1)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination*

7054 *Use of district property*

35010 *Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*

35100-35351 *Governing boards, especially:*

35160-35184 *Powers and duties*

35291 *Rules*

35292 *Visits to schools (Board members)*

51101 *Rights of parents/guardians*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54962 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*

54952.1 *Member of a legislative body of a local agency*

54952.7 *Copies of chapter to members of legislative body*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS****Board Member Qualifications**

Any person is eligible to be a member of the Board of Education, without further qualifications, if he/she is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting, or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or elected as a Board member except when he/she has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

A district employee elected to the Board shall resign his/her employment before being sworn in or shall have his/her employment automatically terminated upon being sworn into office. (Education Code 35107)

*(cf. 9224 - Oath of Affirmation)*

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

The Board encourages all candidates to become knowledgeable about the role of board members. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with information that will enable them to understand the responsibilities and expectations of being a Board member, including information regarding available workshops, seminars, and/or training. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with the county election official's contact information and general information about school programs, district operations, and Board responsibilities.

*(cf. 9230 - Orientation)*

*(cf. 9240 - Board Training)*

**Consolidation of Elections**

To reduce costs associated with conducting elections, the Board may consolidate Board elections with the local municipal or statewide primary or general election in accordance with Elections Code 1302.

In addition, if a regularly scheduled Board election held other than on a statewide election date results in a decrease in local voter turnout of 25 percent or more compared to the average local turnout for the previous four statewide general elections, the Board shall take action to consolidate Board elections with statewide elections. The district shall move its election to the next state statewide election date, unless the Board has adopted a plan by January 1, 2018 to consolidate Board elections not later than the November 8, 2022 statewide general election. (Elections Code 14051, 14052)

## **GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS** (continued)

In order to consolidate elections based on either circumstance described above, the Board shall adopt a resolution and submit it to the County Board of Supervisors for approval not later than 240 days prior to the date of the currently scheduled district election. (Elections Code 10404.5)

Whenever a regularly scheduled Board election is changed due to consolidation of elections, the terms of office of incumbent Board members shall be extended to align with the next applicable election. (Elections Code 10404.5)

*(cf. 9110 - Terms of Office)*

### **Elections Process and Procedures**

Each Board member shall reside within the trustee area that he/she represents but shall be elected by all voters in the district.

To ensure ongoing compliance with the California Voting Rights Acts, the Board may review the district's Board election method to determine whether any modification is necessary due to changes in the district's population or any of its racial, color, or language minority group composition. The review shall be based on the Superintendent or designee's report to the Board after the release of each decennial federal census.

If the Board determines that a change is necessary, it shall hold public hearings in accordance with Elections Code 10100 before adopting a resolution at an open meeting specifying the change(s), and shall, in accordance with Education Code 5019, obtain approval from the county committee on school district organization having jurisdiction over the district.

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

### **Campaign Conduct**

All candidates, including current Board members running as incumbents, shall abide by local, county, state, and federal requirements regarding campaign donations, funding, and expenditures.

A Board member shall not expend, and a candidate shall not accept, any public money for the purpose of seeking elective office. However, the district may establish a dedicated fund for those seeking election to the Board, provided that the funds are available to all candidates who are qualified pursuant to Education Code 35107 without regard to incumbency or political preference. (Government Code 85300)



## **GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS** (continued)

In order to help protect the public's trust in the electoral process as well as the public's confidence in the Board and district, the Board encourages all candidates to sign and adhere to the principles in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices pursuant to Elections Code 20440.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*  
*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

### **Statement of Qualifications**

On the 125th day prior to the day fixed for the general district election, the Board secretary or his/her designee shall deliver a notice, bearing the secretary's signature and district seal, to the county elections official describing both of the following: (Elections Code 10509)

1. The elective offices of the district to be filled at the general election and which offices, if any, are for the balance of an unexpired term
2. Whether the district or the candidate is to pay for the publication of a statement of qualifications pursuant to Elections Code 13307

*(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)*

Candidates for the Board may submit a candidate statement to the elections official for inclusion in the voter's pamphlet. Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 200 words. (Elections Code 13307)

When the elections official allows for the electronic distribution of candidate statements, a candidate for the Board may, in addition to or instead of submitting a candidate statement for inclusion in the mailed voter's pamphlet, prepare and submit a candidate statement for electronic distribution.

To reduce costs associated with conducting elections, the Board may consolidate Board elections with the local municipal or statewide primary or general election. Board election procedures shall be conducted in accordance with state and federal law.

*(cf. 9110 - Terms of Office)*

In order to help defray the costs of campaigning for the Board, the district shall budget \$10,000 per election cycle to pay up to \$500.00 per candidate (prorated by number of candidates) toward the Napa County Election Division's required cost of printing, handling, translating, and mailing candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

**GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS** (continued)**Tie Votes in Board Member Elections**

Whenever a tie makes it impossible to determine which of two or more candidates has been elected to the Board, the Board shall immediately notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or their representatives should appear before the Board. The Board at that time shall determine the winner by lot. (Education Code 5016)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE*1006 Qualifications for holding office, county board of education**5000-5033 Elections**5220-5231 Elections**5300-5304 General provisions (conduct of elections)**5320-5329 Order and call of elections**5340-5345 Consolidation of elections**5360-5363 Election notice**5380 Compensation (of election officer)**5390 Qualifications of voters**5420-5426 Cost of elections**5440-5442 Miscellaneous provisions**7054 Use of district property**35107 Eligibility; school district employees**35177 Campaign expenditures or contributions**35239 Compensation of governing board member of districts with less than 70 ADA*ELECTIONS CODE*20 Public office eligibility**1302 Local elections, school district election**2201 Grounds for cancellation**4000-4008 Elections conducted wholly by mail**10010 District boundaries**10400-10418 Consolidation of elections**10509 Notice of election by secretary**10600-10604 School district elections**13307 Candidate's statement**13308 Candidate's statement contents**13309 Candidate's statement, indigence**14025-14032 California Voting Rights Act**14050-14057 California Voter Participation Rights Act**20440 Code of Fair Campaign Practices*GOVERNMENT CODE*1021 Conviction of crime**1097 Illegal participation in public contract**12940 Nondiscrimination, Fair Employment and Housing Act**81000-91014 Political Reform Act*

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*

## GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

### *Legal Reference: (continued)*

#### PENAL CODE

68 *Bribes*

74 *Acceptance of gratuity*

424 *Embezzlement and falsification of accounts by public officers*

661 *Removal for neglect or violation of official duty*

#### CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 2, Section 2 *Voters, qualifications*

Article 7, Section 7 *Conflicting offices*

Article 7, Section 8 *Disqualification from office*

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 52

10301-10508 *Voting Rights Act*

#### COURT DECISIONS

*Rev v. Madera Unified School District*, (2012) 203 Cal. App. 4th 1223

*Randall v. Sorrell*, (2006) 126 S.Ct. 2479

*Sanchez v. City of Modesto*, (2006) 145 Cal. App. 4th 660

*Dusch v. Davis*, (1967) 387 U.S. 112

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 49 (2002)

83 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 181 (2000)

81 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 98 (1998)

69 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 290 (1986)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

*Legal Alert on the Impact of Senate Bill No. 415 on School Board Elections, January 2017*

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Secretary of State's Office: <http://www.sos.ca.gov>

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

Institute for Local Self Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

**RESIGNATION**

A member of the Board of Education who wishes to resign from the Board shall file a written resignation with the County Superintendent of Schools. (Education Code 5090)

The resigning Board member shall also notify the Board and give a copy of his/her written resignation to the Board secretary.

The resignation shall become effective when filed with the County Superintendent, except when a deferred effective date is specified in the resignation. A Board member may not defer the effective date of his/her resignation for more than 60 days after he/she files the resignation with the County Superintendent. (Education Code 5090, 5091)

Once filed, a written resignation, whether specifying a deferred effective date or otherwise, shall be irrevocable. (Education Code 5090)

A Board member who tenders his/her resignation with a deferred effective date shall, until the effective date of the resignation, continue to exercise all the powers of the office, except that he/she shall not have the right to vote for his/her successor in an action taken by the Board to make a provisional appointment. (Education Code 5091, 35178)

*(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)*

A Board member who resigns shall file, within 30 days of leaving office, a revised Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 covering the period of time between the closing date of the last statement required to be filed and the date he/she leaves office. (Government Code 87302, 87500)

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

5090-5095 Vacancies on the board

35178 Resignation with deferred effective date

GOVERNMENT CODE

1770 Vacancy on the board

87300-87313 Conflict of interest code

87500 Statement of economic interests

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Filling a Board Vacancy, rev. December 2010

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**FILLING VACANCIES**

**Events Causing a Vacancy**

A vacancy on the Board of Education may occur for any of the following events:

1. The death of an incumbent (Government Code 1770)
2. The adjudication pursuant to a quo warranto proceeding declaring that an incumbent is physically or mentally incapacitated due to disease, illness, or accident and that there is reasonable cause to believe that the incumbent will not be able to perform the duties of his/her office for the remainder of his/her term (Government Code 1770)
3. A Board member's resignation (Government Code 1770)

A vacancy resulting from resignation occurs when the written resignation is filed with the County Superintendent of Schools having jurisdiction over the district, except where a deferred effective date is specified in the resignation so filed, in which case the resignation shall become operative on that date. A Board member may not defer the effective date of his/her resignation for more than 60 days after he/she files the resignation with the County Superintendent. Upon being filed with the County Superintendent, a written resignation, whether specifying a deferred effective date or otherwise, shall be irrevocable. (Education Code 5090, 5091)

4. A Board member's removal from office, including by recall (Elections Code 11384; Government Code 1770)
5. A Board member's ceasing to be a resident of the district (Government Code 1770)

A vacancy on the Board also occurs when a Board member ceases to inhabit the trustee area which he/she represents on the Board. (58 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 888 (1975))

6. A Board member's absence from the state for more than 60 days, except in the following situations: (Government Code 1064, 1770)
  - a. Upon district business with the approval of the Board
  - b. With the consent of the Board for an additional period not to exceed a total absence of 90 days

In the case of illness or other urgent necessity, and upon a proper showing thereof, the time limited for absence from the state may be extended by the Board.

**FILLING VACANCIES** (continued)

- c. For federal military deployment, not to exceed an absence of a total of six months, as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the California National Guard  
  
If the absence of the Board member for this purpose exceeds six months, the Board may approve an additional six-month absence upon a showing that there is a reasonable expectation that the member will return within the second six-month period, and the Board may appoint an interim member to serve in his/her absence. If two or more members of the Board are absent by reason of these circumstances, and those absences result in the inability to establish a quorum at a regular meeting, the Board may immediately appoint one or more interim members as necessary to enable the Board to conduct business and discharge its responsibilities. The term of an interim member appointed in these circumstances shall not extend beyond the return of the absent Board member or beyond the next regularly scheduled election for that office, whichever occurs first.
7. A Board member's ceasing to discharge the duties of his/her office for the period of three consecutive months, except when prevented by illness or when absent from the state with the permission required by law (Government Code 1770)
8. A Board member's conviction of a felony or any offense involving a violation of his/her official duties or conviction of a designated crime resulting in a forfeiture of office (Government Code 1770, 3000-3003)
9. A Board member's refusal or neglect to file his/her required oath or bond within the time prescribed (Government Code 1770)  
  
(*cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation*)
10. The decision of a competent tribunal declaring void a Board member's election or appointment (Government Code 1770)
11. A Board member's commitment to a hospital or sanitarium as a drug addict, dipsomaniac, inebriate, or stimulant addict by a court of competent jurisdiction, in which case the office shall not be deemed vacant until the order of commitment has become final (Government Code 1770)
12. A "failure to elect" in which no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have filed to run for a Board seat(s) (Education Code 5090, 5326, 5328)

## **FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

### **Timelines for Filling a Vacancy**

When a vacancy occurs, the Board shall take the following action, as appropriate:

1. When a vacancy occurs within four months of the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall take no action. (Education Code 5093)
2. When a vacancy occurs longer than four months before the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy or the filing of the member's deferred resignation, either order an election or make a provisional appointment, unless a special election is mandated as described in item #3 below. (Education Code 5091, 5093)
3. When a vacancy occurs from six months to 130 days before a regularly scheduled Board election at which the position is not scheduled to be filled, a special election to fill the position shall be consolidated with the regular election. The person so elected shall take office at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the certification of the election and shall serve only until the end of the term of the position which he/she was elected to fill. (Education Code 5093)

### **Eligibility**

In order to be appointed or elected to fill a vacancy on the Board, a person must meet the eligibility requirements specified in Education Code 35107.

*(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)*

### **Provisional Appointments**

When authorized by law to make a provisional appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board, the Board shall advertise in the local media to solicit candidate applications or nominations. A committee consisting of less than a quorum of the Board shall ensure that applicants are eligible for Board membership and announce the names of the eligible candidates. The Board shall interview the candidates at a public meeting, accept oral or written public input, and select the provisional appointee by a majority vote.

*(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)*

*(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)*

Within 10 days after the appointment is made, the Board shall post notices of the actual vacancy, or the filing of a deferred resignation, and the provisional appointment. The notice shall be published in the local newspaper pursuant to Government Code 6061 and posted in at least three public places within the district. (Education Code 5092)

**FILLING VACANCIES** (continued)

The notice shall contain: (Education Code 5092)

1. The date of the occurrence of the vacancy or the date of the filing of, and the effective date of, the resignation
2. The full name of the appointee
3. The date of appointment
4. A statement notifying the voters that unless a petition calling for a special election pursuant to Education Code 5091 is filed in the office of the County Superintendent within 30 days of the provisional appointment, it shall become an effective appointment

The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district Board members and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a Board member upon appointment. (Education Code 5091)

**Appointment Due to Failure to Elect**

When a vacancy occurs because no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have been nominated (i.e., a failure to elect) and a district election will not be held, the Board shall appoint a qualified person to the office. This appointment shall be made at a meeting prior to the day fixed for the election and the appointee shall be seated at the organizational meeting as if elected at the district election. (Education Code 5328)

*(cf. 9100 - Organization)*

When an appointment is being made because of a failure to elect, the district shall publish a notice once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the district, or if no such newspaper exists, in a newspaper having general circulation within the district. This notice shall state that the Board intends to make an appointment and shall inform persons of the procedure available for applying for the appointment. (Education Code 5328.5)

The procedure for selecting and interviewing candidates shall be the same as the procedures for "Provisional Appointments," as specified above.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*



## **FILLING VACANCIES (continued)**

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

5000-5033 Elections

5090-5095 Vacancies

5200-5208 Districts governed by boards of education

5300-5304 Elections

5320-5329 Order and call of election

5340-5345 Consolidation of elections

5360-5363 Election notice

5420-5426 Cost of elections

5440-5442 Miscellaneous provisions, elections

35107 Eligibility of board members

35178 Resignation with deferred effective date

#### ELECTIONS CODE

10600-10604 School district elections

11381-11386 Candidates for recall

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

1064 Absence from state

1770 Vacancies: definition

3000-3003 Forfeiture of office

3060-3075 Removal other than by impeachment

6061 One time notice

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act

#### PENAL CODE

88 Bribery, forfeiture from office

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

704 Military medals or decorations

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

58 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 888 (1975)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Filling a Board Vacancy, rev. December 2010

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California State Attorney General's Office, Quo Warranto Applications:

[http://ag.ca.gov/opinions/quo\\_warranto.php](http://ag.ca.gov/opinions/quo_warranto.php)

**OATH OR AFFIRMATION**

Prior to entering upon the duties of their office, all Board of Education members shall take the oath or affirmation required by law. (California Constitution, Article 20, Section 3; Government Code 1360)

*(cf. 4112.3/4212.3/4312.3 - Oath or Affirmation)*

The oath may be administered and certified by a Board member, secretary or assistant secretary to the Board, Superintendent, deputy or assistant superintendent, principal, or County Superintendent of Schools or any other person authorized in Education Code 60.

The executed oath shall be filed with the County Clerk. (Government Code 1363)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

*60 Persons authorized to administer and certify oaths*

GOVERNMENT CODE

*1303 Misdemeanor for failure to take oath*

*1360-1369 Oath of office*

*3100-3109 Oath or affirmation of allegiance*

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

*Article 20, Section 3 Oath of office*

COURT DECISIONS

*Chilton v. Contra Costa Community College District (1976) 55 Cal. App. 3d 544*

*Vogel v. County of Los Angeles (1967) 68 Cal. 2d 18, 22*

**ORIENTATION**

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of providing all newly elected or appointed Board members with support and information to assist them in becoming effective members of the Board. Incoming Board members shall be provided an orientation designed to build their knowledge of the district and an understanding of the responsibilities of their position. Such orientation may include the provision of information, support, and/or training related to Board functions, policies, protocols, and standards of conduct.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)*

*(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)*

The Board encourages all candidates to attend public Board meetings during the period of their candidacy. Candidates shall have the same access as members of the public to district staff and information.

As early as possible following the election or appointment of Board members, one or more orientation sessions shall be held during open meeting(s) of the Board. The Board president and the Superintendent or designee shall develop an agenda for the meeting(s) and shall identify resources that may be useful for incoming Board members.

*(cf. 9121 - President)*

Upon their election or appointment, incoming Board members shall be provided a copy of the Brown Act and informed that, pursuant to Government Code 54952.1, they must conform to the Act's requirements as if they had already assumed office. Additional information for incoming Board members may include, but is not limited to, Board bylaws related to the limits of individual Board member authority, the conduct of Board meetings, and other Board operations; governance standards for ethical conduct; legal requirements related to conflict of interest and prohibited political activity; protocols for speaking with district staff, members of the public, and the media; and publications on effective governance practices.

*(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*

*(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

*(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)*

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall provide incoming Board members with specific background information regarding the district, including, but not limited to, the district's vision and goals statements, local control and accountability plan and other comprehensive plans, student demographic data, student achievement data, district policy manual, district budget, and minutes of recent open Board meetings.

## **ORIENTATION** (continued)

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

*(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)*

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

The Superintendent or designee may offer incoming Board members a tour of district schools and facilities, and may introduce them to district and school site administrators and other staff.

Incoming members are encouraged, at district expense and with approval of the Board, to attend the California School Boards Association's Orientation for New Trustees, Institute for New and First-Term Board Members, and workshops and conferences relevant to the needs of the individual member, the Board as a whole, or the district.

*(cf. 9240 - Board Training)*

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshops

33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses; board member or member-elect

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body

54952.2 Open meeting laws; posting agenda; board actions

54952.7 Copies of Brown Act to board members

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards for School Boards

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. December 2014

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**BOARD TRAINING**

The Board of Education believes that the Board's ability to effectively and responsibly govern the district is essential to promoting student achievement, building positive community relations, and protecting the public interest in district schools. Board members shall be provided sufficient opportunities for professional development that helps them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education, and develop boardsmanship skills.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

The Board and/or the Superintendent or designee shall provide an orientation to newly elected or appointed Board members which includes comprehensive information regarding Board roles, policies, and procedures and the district's vision and goals, operations, and current challenges. Throughout their first term, Board members shall continue to participate in additional educational opportunities designed to assist them in understanding the principles of effective governance, including, but not limited to, information on school finance and budgets, student achievement and assessment, labor relations, community relations, program evaluation, open meeting laws (the Brown Act), conflict of interest laws, and other topics necessary to govern effectively and in compliance with law.

*(cf. 9230 - Orientation)*

All Board members are encouraged to continuously participate in advanced training offered by the California School Boards Association in order to reinforce boardsmanship skills and build knowledge related to key education issues. Such activities may include online courses, webinars, webcasts, and in-person attendance at workshops and conferences. In addition, workshops and consultations may be held within the district on issues that involve the entire governance team.

Funds for board training shall be budgeted annually for the Board and each Board member. In selecting appropriate activities, the Board and/or individual Board members shall consider activities that are aligned with the district's vision and goals and the needs of the Board or individual member to obtain specific knowledge and skills. The Board shall annually develop a board training calendar in order to schedule and track board training activities and to schedule opportunities for Board members to report on the activities in which they participated.

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

*(cf. 3100 - Budget)*

*(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits)*

## **BOARD TRAINING (continued)**

Board members may attend a conference or similar public gathering with other Board members and/or with the Superintendent or designee in order to develop common knowledge and understanding of an issue or engage in team-building exercises. In such cases, a majority of the Board members shall not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specified nature that is within the district's jurisdiction, so as not to violate the Brown Act open meeting laws pursuant to Government Code 54952.2.

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

Board members shall report to the Board, orally or in writing, on the board training activities they attend, for the purpose of sharing the acquired knowledge or skills with the full Board and enlarging the benefit of the activity to the Board and district.

### *Legal Reference:*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*

54952.2 *Meeting*

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Professional Governance Standards for School Boards*

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California County Boards of Education: <http://www.theccbe.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

**REMUNERATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS**

**Compensation**

Each member of the Board of Education may receive the maximum monthly compensation as provided for in Education Code 35120.

On an annual basis, the Board may increase the compensation of Board members beyond the limit delineated in Education Code 35120 in an amount not to exceed five percent based on the present monthly rate of compensation. (Education Code 35120)

Board members are not required to accept payment for meetings attended.

Any member who does not attend all Board meetings during the month is eligible to receive only a percentage of the monthly compensation equal to the percentage of meetings he/she attended, unless otherwise authorized by the Board in accordance with law. (Education Code 35120)

A member may be compensated for meetings he/she missed when the Board, by resolution, finds that he/she was performing designated services for the district at the time of the meeting or that he/she was absent because of illness, jury duty, or a hardship deemed acceptable by the Board. (Education Code 35120)

Student Board members shall receive no compensation for meetings attended. (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 9150 - Student Board Members)*

Whenever a quorum of Board members serves as another legislative body which will meet simultaneously or in serial order to a Board meeting, the Board clerk or a member of the Board shall verbally announce the amount of any additional compensation or stipend that each member will be entitled to receive as a result of convening the simultaneous or serial meeting. (Government Code 54952.3)

**Reimbursement of Expenses**

Board members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred when performing authorized services for the district. Expenses for travel, telephone, business meals, or other authorized purposes shall be in accordance with policies established for district personnel and at the same rate of reimbursement.

*(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)*

*(cf. 3100 - Budget)*

*(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)*

*(cf. 3513.1 - Cellular Phone Reimbursement)*

## **REMUNERATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS** (continued)

Board members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when performing services directed by the Board. (Education Code 35044)

*(cf. 9240 - Board Development)*

Authorized purposes may include, but are not limited to, attendance at educational seminars or conferences designed to improve Board members' skills and knowledge; participation in regional, state, or national organizations whose activities affect the district's interests; attendance at district or community events; and meetings with state or federal officials on issues of community concern.

Personal expenses shall be the responsibility of individual Board members. Personal expenses include, but are not limited to, the personal portion of any trip, tips or gratuities, alcohol, entertainment, laundry, expenses of any family member who is accompanying the Board member on district-related business, personal use of an automobile, and personal losses and traffic violation fees incurred while on district business.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved by the Superintendent or designee before the expense is incurred.

Board members may use district-issued credit cards while on official district business and consistent with the limits established for district personnel. Personal expenses shall not be charged on a district-issued credit card, even if the Board member intends to subsequently reimburse the district for the personal charges.

### **Health and Welfare Benefits for Current Board Members**

Board members may participate in the health and welfare benefits program provided for district employees.

*(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)*

Health and welfare benefits for Board members shall be no greater than that received by the district's nonsafety employees with the most generous schedule of benefits. (Government Code 53208.5)

The district shall pay the premiums required for Board members electing to participate in the district health and welfare benefits program to the same extent that it pays for district employees.

Health and welfare benefits provided to Board members shall be extended at the same level to their spouse/registered domestic partner and to their eligible dependent children as specified in law and the health plan.



**REMUNERATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS** (continued)

**Health and Welfare Benefits for Former Board Members**

Former Board members may participate in the health and welfare benefits program provided for district employees under the conditions specified below.

Health and welfare benefits for former Board members shall be no greater than those received by district nonsafety employees with the most generous schedule of benefits. (Government Code 53208.5)

Any former Board member leaving the Board after at least one term of office may participate in the health and welfare benefits program at his/her own expense if coverage is in effect at the time of retirement. (Government Code 53201)

Health and welfare benefits provided to a former Board member shall be extended, at his/her expense and at the same level, to his/her spouse/registered domestic partner and eligible dependent children as specified in law and the health plan.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## REMUNERATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS (continued)

### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

33050-33053 General waiver authority  
33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses for attendance at workshops  
35012 Board members; number, election and term  
35044 Payment of traveling expenses of representatives of board  
35120 Compensation for services as member of governing board  
35172 Promotional activities  
44038 Cash deposits for transportation purchased on credit

#### FAMILY CODE

297-297.5 Rights, protections and benefits under law; registered domestic partners

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

8314 Use of public resources  
20322 Elective officers; election to become member  
20420-20445 Membership in Public Employees' Retirement System; definition of safety employees  
53200-53209 Group insurance  
54952.3 Simultaneous or serial meetings; announcement of compensation

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1373 Health services plan, coverage for dependent children

#### INSURANCE CODE

10277-10278 Group and individual health insurance, coverage for dependent children

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 26

403 Tax-sheltered annuities

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

18011 Right to maintain existing health coverage

#### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 26

1.403(b)-2 Tax-sheltered annuities, definition of employee

#### COURT DECISIONS

*Thorning v. Hollister School District*, (1992) 11 Cal.App.4th 1598

*Board of Education of the Palo Alto Unified School District v. Superior Court of Santa Clara County*, (1979) 93 Cal.App.3d 578

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

91 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 37 (2008)

83 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 124 (2000)

### Management Resources:

#### INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

*Sample Expense and Use of Public Resources Policy Statement*, January 2006

#### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

*Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plans (403(b) Plans) for Employees of Public Schools and Certain Tax-Exempt Organizations*, Publication 571, rev. February 2013

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Institute for Local Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

Internal Revenue Service: <http://www.irs.gov>

Public Employees' Retirement System: <http://www.calpers.ca.gov>

**REMUNERATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS**

**RESOLUTION ON BOARD COMPENSATION FOR MISSED MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Napa Valley Unified School District appreciates the services provided by members of the Board and provides compensation for meeting attendance in accordance with Education Code 35120 and Board Bylaw 9250; and

WHEREAS, Education Code 35120 provides that the monthly compensation provided to Board members shall be commensurate with the percentage of meetings attended during the month unless otherwise authorized by Board resolution; and

WHEREAS, Education Code 35120 specifies limited circumstances under which the Board is authorized to compensate a Board member for meetings he/she missed; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that      (name of Board member)      did not attend the Board meeting(s) on      (dates)      for the following reason(s):      (check applicable reasons)     

- ☐ Performance of other designated duties for the district during the time of the meeting
- ☐ Illness or jury duty
- ☐ Hardship deemed acceptable by the Board

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the Napa Valley Unified School District approves full compensation of the Board member for the month of \_\_\_\_\_.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at a regular meeting, by the following vote:

AYES:\_\_\_\_\_ NOES:\_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT:\_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

## **LEGAL PROTECTION**

### **Liability Insurance**

The Board of Education shall provide insurance necessary to protect Board members and employees while acting within the scope of their office or employment in accordance with Education Code 35208.

*(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)*

### **Protection Against Liability**

No Board member shall be liable for harm caused by his/her act or omission when acting within the scope of district responsibilities. The act or omission must be in conformity with federal, state and local laws and made in furtherance of an effort to control, discipline, expel or suspend a student, or maintain order or control in the classroom or school. (20 USC 6736)

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC 6736)

1. The Board member acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the harmed person's right to safety.
2. The Board member caused harm by operating a motor vehicle.
3. The Board member was not properly licensed, if required, by the State for such activities.
4. The Board member was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The Board member was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the Board member has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the Board member has been convicted in a court.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**LEGAL PROTECTION** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

17029.5 *Contract funding; board liability*

35208 *Liability insurance*

35214 *Liability insurance (self-insurance or a combination of self-insurance and insurance through an insurance company)*

GOVERNMENT CODE

815.3 *Intentional torts*

820-823 *Tort Claims Act*

825.6 *Indemnification of public entity*

1090-1098 *Conflicts of interest, prohibitions applicable to specified officers*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act*

87100-89503 *Conflicts of interest*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

16 *Crime of violence defined*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6731-6738 *Teacher Protection Act*

COURT DECISIONS

*Caldwell v. Montoya (Paramount Unified School District) 10 Cal 4th 972 (1995)*

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Board of Education desires to maintain the highest ethical standards and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the district and the public. Accordingly, no Board member, district employee, or other person in a designated position shall participate in the making of any decision for the district when the decision will or may be affected by his/her financial, family, or other personal interest or consideration.

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

Even if a prohibited conflict of interest does not exist, a Board member shall abstain from voting on personnel matters that uniquely affect his/her relatives. However, a Board member may vote on collective bargaining agreements and personnel matters that affect a class of employees to which his/her relative belongs. *Relative* means an adult who is related to the Board member by blood or affinity within the third degree, as determined by the common law, or an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree. (Education Code 35107)

A relationship within the third degree includes an individual's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and the similar family of the individual's spouse/registered domestic partner unless the individual is widowed or divorced.

The Board shall adopt for the district a conflict of interest code that incorporates the provisions of 2 CCR 18730 by reference, specifies the district's designated positions, and provides the disclosure categories required for each position. The conflict of interest code shall be submitted to the district's code reviewing body for approval, in accordance with Government Code 87303 and within the deadline for submission established by the code reviewing body. (Government Code 87303)

Upon direction by the code reviewing body, the Board shall review the district's conflict of interest code and submit any changes to the code reviewing body or, if no change is required, the Board shall submit a written statement to that effect. (Government Code 87306.5)

When a change in the district's conflict of interest code is necessitated due to changed circumstances, such as the creation of new designated positions, changes to the duties assigned to existing positions, amendments, or revisions, the amended code shall be submitted to the code reviewing body within 90 days after the changed circumstances necessitating the amendments have become apparent. (Government Code 87306)

When reviewing and preparing the district's conflict of interest code, the Superintendent or designee shall provide officers, employees, consultants, and members of the community adequate notice and a fair opportunity to present their views. (Government Code 87311)

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)**

Board members and designated employees shall annually file a Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories specified in the district's conflict of interest code. A Board member who leaves office or a designated employee who leaves district employment shall, within 30 days, file a revised statement covering the period of time between the closing date of the last required statement and the date of leaving office or district employment. (Government Code 87302, 87302.6)

*(cf. 4117.2/4217.2/4317.2 - Resignation)*

*(cf. 9222 - Resignation)*

### **Conflict of Interest under the Political Reform Act**

A Board member, designated employee, or other person in a designated position shall not make, participate in making, or in any way use or attempt to use his/her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he/she knows or has reason to know that he/she has a disqualifying conflict of interest. A disqualifying conflict of interest exists if the decision will have a "reasonably foreseeable material financial effect," which is distinguishable from the effect on the public generally, on the Board member, designated employee, or other person in a designated position, his/her immediate family, or any financial interest described in 2 CCR 18700. (Government Code 87100, 87101, 87103; 2 CCR 18700-18707)

A Board member, designated employee, or other person in a designated position makes a governmental decision when he/she, acting within the authority of his/her office or position, authorizes or directs any action on a matter, votes or provides information or opinion on it, contacts or appears before a district official for the purpose of affecting the decision, or takes any other action specified in 2 CCR 18704.

However, a Board member shall participate in the making of a contract in which he/she has a financial interest if his/her participation is required by the rule of necessity or legally required participation pursuant to Government Code 87101 and 2 CCR 18705.

### **Additional Requirements for Boards that Manage Public Investments**

Any Board member who manages public investments pursuant to Government Code 87200 and who has a financial interest in a decision shall, upon identifying a conflict or potential conflict of interest and immediately prior to the consideration of the matter, do all of the following: (Government Code 87105; 2 CCR 18707)

1. Publicly identify each financial interest that gives rise to the conflict or potential conflict of interest in detail sufficient to be understood by the public, except that disclosure of the exact street address of a residence is not required.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)**

2. Recuse himself/herself from discussing and voting on the matter, or otherwise acting in violation of Government Code 87100. The Board member shall not be counted toward achieving a quorum while the item is discussed.

However, the Board member may speak on the issue during the time that the general public speaks on it and may leave the dais to speak from the same area as members of the public. He/she may listen to the public discussion and deliberations of the matter with members of the public.

3. Leave the room until after the discussion, vote, and any other disposition of the matter is concluded, unless the matter has been placed on the portion of the agenda reserved for uncontested matters.

If the item is on the consent calendar, the Board member must recuse himself/herself from discussing or voting on that matter, but the Board member is not required to leave the room during consideration of the consent calendar.

4. If the Board's decision is made during closed session, disclose his/her interest orally during the open session preceding the closed session. This disclosure shall be limited to a declaration that his/her recusal is because of a conflict of interest pursuant to Government Code 87100. He/she shall not be present when the item is considered in closed session and shall not knowingly obtain or review a recording or any other nonpublic information regarding the Board's decision.

*(cf. 3430 - Investing)*

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

*(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)*

**Conflict of Interest under Government Code 1090 - Financial Interest in a Contract**

Board members, employees, or district consultants shall not be financially interested in any contract made by the Board on behalf of the district, including in the development, preliminary discussions, negotiations, compromises, planning, reasoning, and specifications and solicitations for bids. If a Board member has such a financial interest in a contract made by the Board, the contract is void. (Government Code 1090)

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which he/she has only a "remote interest," as specified in Government Code 1091, if the interest is disclosed during a Board meeting and noted in the official Board minutes. The affected Board member shall not vote or debate on the matter or attempt to influence any other Board member or district official to enter into the contract. (Government Code 1091)



## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)**

In addition, a Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which his/her interest is a "noninterest" as defined in Government Code 1091.5. Noninterest includes a Board member's interest in being reimbursed for his/her actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his/her official duties, in the employment of his/her spouse/registered domestic partner who has been a district employee for at least one year prior to the Board member's election or appointment, or in any other applicable circumstance specified in Government Code 1091.5.

### **Common Law Doctrine Against Conflict of Interest**

A Board member shall abstain from any official action in which his/her private or personal interest may conflict with his/her official duties.

### **Incompatible Offices and Activities**

Board members shall not engage in any employment or activity or hold any office which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, in conflict with, or inimical to the Board member's duties as an officer of the district. (Government Code 1099, 1126)

*(cf. 4136/4236/4336 - Nonschool Employment)*

### **Gifts**

Board members and designated employees may accept gifts only under the conditions and limitations specified in Government Code 89503 and 2 CCR 18730.

The limitation on gifts does not apply to wedding gifts and gifts exchanged between individuals on birthdays, holidays, and other similar occasions, provided that the gifts exchanged are not substantially disproportionate in value. (Government Code 89503)

In addition, the limitation on gifts does not apply to informational materials such as books, reports, pamphlets, calendars, and periodicals. (Government Code 82028)

Gifts of travel and related lodging and subsistence shall be subject to the current gift limitation, except when: (Government Code 89506)

1. The travel is in connection with a speech given by a Board member or designated employee, provided the lodging and subsistence expenses are limited to the day immediately preceding, the day of, and the day immediately following the speech and the travel is within the United States.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (continued)

2. The travel is provided by a person or agency specified in Government Code 89506, including a government, governmental agency or authority, bona fide public or private educational institution, as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code 203, or nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Gifts of travel exempted from the gift limitation, as described in items #1 and 2 above, shall nevertheless be reportable on the recipient's Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 as required by law.

A gift of travel does not include travel provided by the district for Board members and designated employees. (Government Code 89506)

**Honoraria**

Board members and designated employees shall not accept any honorarium, which is defined as any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, meal, or like gathering. (Government Code 89501, 89502)

The term *honorarium* does not include: (Government Code 89501)

1. Earned income for personal services customarily provided in connection with a bona fide business, trade, or profession, unless the sole or predominant activity of the business, trade, or profession is making speeches
2. Any honorarium which is not used and, within 30 days after receipt, is either returned to the donor or delivered to the district for donation into the general fund without being claimed as a deduction from income for tax purposes

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

1006 *Qualifications for holding office*

35107 *School district employees*

35230-35240 *Corrupt practices, especially:*

35233 *Prohibitions applicable to members of governing boards*

41000-41003 *Moneys received by school districts*

41015 *Investments*

#### FAMILY CODE

297.5 *Rights, protections, and benefits of registered domestic partners*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

1090-1099 *Prohibitions applicable to specified officers*

1125-1129 *Incompatible activities*

81000-91014 *Political Reform Act of 1974, especially:*

82011 *Code reviewing body*

82019 *Definition, designated employee*

82028 *Definition, gift*

82030 *Definition, income*

82033 *Definition, interest in real property*

82034 *Definition, investment*

87100-87103.6 *General prohibitions*

87200-87210 *Disclosure*

87300-87313 *Conflict of interest code*

87500 *Statements of economic interests*

89501-89503 *Honoraria and gifts*

89506 *Ethics; travel*

91000-91014 *Enforcement*

#### PENAL CODE

85-88 *Bribes*

#### REVENUE AND TAXATION CODE

203 *Taxable and exempt property - colleges*

#### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18110-18997 *Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, especially:*

18700-18707 *General prohibitions*

18722-18740 *Disclosure of interests*

18753-18756 *Conflict of interest codes*

#### COURT DECISIONS

McGee v. Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC, et al. (4/12/16, No. B262850)

Davis v. Fresno Unified School District (2015) 237 Cal.App.4th 261

Klistoff v. Superior Court, (2007) 157 Cal.App.4th 469

Thorpe v. Long Beach Community College District, (2000) 83 Cal.App.4th 655

Kunec v. Brea Redevelopment Agency, (1997) 55 Cal.App.4th 511

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

### *Legal Reference: (continued)*

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- 92 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 26 (2009)
- 92 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 19 (2009)
- 89 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 217 (2006)
- 86 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 138(2003)
- 85 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 60 (2002)
- 82 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 83 (1999)
- 81 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 327 (1998)
- 80 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 320 (1997)
- 69 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 255 (1986)
- 68 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 171 (1985)
- 65 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 606 (1982)
- 63 Ops.Cal.Attv.Gen. 868 (1980)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Conflict of Interest: Overview of Key Issues for Governing Board Members, Fact Sheet, July 2010

#### FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

Can I Vote? A Basic Overview of Public Officials' Obligations Under the Conflict-of-Interest Rules, 2005

#### INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Understanding the Basics of Public Service Ethics: Personal Financial Gain Laws, 2009

Understanding the Basics of Public Service Ethics: Transparency Laws, 2009

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

Institute of Local Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

WHEREAS, the Political Reform Act, Government Code 87300-87313, requires each public agency in California to adopt a conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Napa Valley Unified School District has previously adopted a local conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, past and future amendments to the Political Reform Act and implementing regulations may require conforming amendments to be made to the district's conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, a regulation adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, 2 CCR 18730, provides that incorporation by reference of the terms of that regulation, along with an agency-specific appendix designating positions and disclosure categories shall constitute the adoption and amendment of a conflict of interest code in conformance with Government Code 87300 and 87306; and

WHEREAS, the Napa Valley Unified School District has recently reviewed its positions, and the duties of each position, and has determined that (changes/no changes) to the current conflict of interest code are necessary; and

WHEREAS, any earlier resolutions, bylaws, and/or appendices containing the district's conflict of interest code shall be rescinded and superseded by this resolution and Appendix; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Napa Valley Unified School District Board of Education adopts the following Conflict of Interest Code including its Appendix of Designated Employees and Disclosure Categories.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at a meeting, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_ NOES: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

---

Secretary/President

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (continued)

**Conflict of Interest Code of the  
Napa Valley Unified School District**

The provisions of 2 CCR 18730 and any amendments to it adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, together with the attached Appendix specifying designated positions and disclosure categories, are incorporated by reference and shall constitute the district's conflict of interest code.

Board of Education members and designated employees shall file a Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories listed in the attached Appendix. The Statement of Economic Interest shall be filed with the district's filing officer and/or, if so required, with the district's code reviewing body. The district's filing officer shall make the statements available for public review and inspection.

**APPENDIX**

**Disclosure Categories**

1. **Category 1:** A person designated Category 1 shall disclose:
  - a. Interests in real property located entirely or partly within district boundaries, or within two miles of district boundaries, or of any land owned or used by the district.
  - b. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which are engaged in the acquisition or disposal of real property within the district, are contractors or subcontractors which are or have been within the past two years engaged in work or services of the type used by the district, or manufacture or sell supplies, books, machinery, or equipment of the type used by the district.
2. **Category 2:** A person designated Category 2 shall disclose:
  - a. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which are contractors or subcontractors engaged in work or services of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs.
  - b. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which manufacture or sell supplies, books, machinery, or equipment of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs. For the purposes of this category, a principal's department is his/her entire school.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (continued)

3. **Full Disclosure:** Because it has been determined that the district's Board members and/or Superintendent "manage public investments," they and other persons designated for "full disclosure" shall disclose, in accordance with Government Code 87200:
- a. Interests in real property located entirely or partly within district boundaries, or within two miles of district boundaries, or of any land owned or used by the district.
  - b. Investments, business positions, and sources of income, including gifts, loans, and travel payments.

**Designated Positions**

<u>Designated Position</u>	<u>Disclosure Category</u>
Board of Education Members	1
Superintendent of Schools	1
Assistant/Associate Superintendent	1
Purchasing Agent	1
Executive Director	1
Director	2
District Athletic Director	2
Principal	2
Assistant Principal	2
Maintenance and Operations Director	2
Program Coordinator	2
Coordinator	2
Project Specialist	2
Supervisor	2
Dean of Students	2

**Disclosures for Consultants**

Consultants are designated employees who must disclose financial interests as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee's written determination shall include a description of the consultant's duties and a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements based upon that description. All such determinations are public records and shall be retained for public inspection along with this conflict of interest code.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (continued)

A consultant is an individual who, pursuant to a contract with the district, makes a governmental decision whether to: (2 CCR 18700.3)

1. Approve a rate, rule, or regulation
2. Adopt or enforce a law
3. Issue, deny, suspend, or revoke any permit, license, application, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization or entitlement
4. Authorize the district to enter into, modify, or renew a contract that requires district approval
5. Grant district approval to a contract that requires district approval and in which the district is a party, or to the specifications for such a contract
6. Grant district approval to a plan, design, report, study, or similar item
7. Adopt or grant district approval of district policies, standards, or guidelines

A consultant is also an individual who, pursuant to a contract with the district, serves in a staff capacity with the district and in that capacity participates in making a governmental decision as defined in 2 CCR 18704, subsections (a) and (b), or performs the same or substantially all the same duties for the district that would otherwise be performed by an individual holding a position specified in the district's conflict of interest code. (2 CCR 18700.3)



**BOARD POLICIES**

The Board of Education shall adopt written policies to convey its expectations for actions that will be taken in the district, clarify roles and responsibilities of the Board and Superintendent, and communicate Board philosophy and positions to students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

The Board shall ensure that district policies align with the district's vision and goals, promote student learning and achievement, provide for consistent and fair treatment of students and staff, and proactively address equity and the provision of equal access to opportunities for all students.

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)*

*(cf. 0415 - Equity)*

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

The Board recognizes the importance of maintaining a policy manual that is up to date and reflects the mandates of law. Board policies are binding on the district to the extent that they do not conflict with federal or state law and are consistent with the district's collective bargaining agreements. No Board policy, bylaw, or administrative regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if it is found to be in conflict with applicable federal or state law or regulations or court decisions. If any portion of a policy is found to be invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the policy.

*(cf. 2210 - Administrative Discretion Regarding Board Policy)*

Policies shall be regularly reviewed at a time allocated for this purpose on the agenda of public Board meetings.

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

The Board shall review certain policies annually, as required by Education Code 35160.5. If no revisions are deemed necessary, the Board minutes shall nevertheless indicate that the review was conducted. Other policies shall be monitored and reviewed as specified in the policy itself or as needed to reflect changes in law or district circumstances.

*(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)*

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

**Policy Development and Adoption Process**

The district's policy development process shall include the following basic steps:

**BOARD POLICIES** (continued)

1. The Board and/or Superintendent or designee shall identify the need for a new policy or revision of an existing policy. The need may arise from a change in law, a new district vision statement, new goals in the local control and accountability plan, educational research or trends, an incident that has arisen in the district, or a recommendation or request from staff, a parent/guardian, or other interested person.
2. As needed, the Superintendent or designee shall gather fiscal data, staff and public input, related district policies, sample policies from the California School Boards Association or other organizations or agencies, and other useful information and data to fully inform the Board about a particular issue.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

3. The Board may hold discussions during a public Board meeting to gain an understanding of the issue and provide initial direction to the Superintendent or designee. The discussion may include, but not be limited to, community expectations, staff recommendations, and the expected impact of the policy on student learning and well-being, equity, governance, and the district's fiscal resources and operational efficiency.
4. The Board or Superintendent may request that legal counsel review the draft policy as appropriate.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and present a draft policy for a first reading at a public Board meeting. At its second reading, the Board may take action on the proposed policy. The Board may waive the second reading or may require an additional reading if necessary.

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

Only policies formally adopted by a majority vote of the Board shall constitute official Board policy.

*(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)*

The district's policy development process may be revised or expanded as needed based on the issue being considered, the need for more information, or the desire to provide greater opportunities for consultation and public input.

Policies shall become effective upon Board adoption or at a future date if so designated by the Board at the time of adoption.

## **BOARD POLICIES** (continued)

### **Board Bylaws**

The Board shall prescribe and enforce rules for its own governance consistent with state law and regulations. (Education Code 35010)

Bylaws governing Board operations may be developed, adopted, and amended following the same procedures as those used for the adoption or amendment of Board policy.

### **Administrative Regulations**

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing and enforcing administrative regulations for the operation of the district. Administrative regulations shall be consistent with law and Board policy and shall be designed to promote the achievement of district goals and objectives. Administrative regulations may describe specific actions to be taken, roles and responsibilities of staff, timelines, and/or other provisions. The Superintendent or designee may also develop procedures manuals, handbooks, or other guides to carry out the intent of Board policy.

When Board policies are amended, the Superintendent or designee shall review corresponding administrative regulations to ensure that they conform to the intent of the revised policy. In case of conflict between administrative regulation and Board policy, policy shall prevail.

The Board may review and/or approve administrative regulations for the purpose of ensuring conformity with the intent of Board policy.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At any time, the Board and Superintendent or designee may determine that progress reports to the Board on the implementation and/or effectiveness of the policy should be scheduled. If so, the Board and Superintendent or designee shall agree upon a timeline and, as applicable, measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its purpose.

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*

### **Access to Policies**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district employees and the public have access to an up-to-date district policy manual. The policy manual shall be maintained electronically and/or by paper copy.

*(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)*

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*

**BOARD POLICIES** (continued)

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall notify staff, parents/guardians, students, and other stakeholders whenever a policy that affects them is adopted or revised. He/she may determine the appropriate communication strategy depending on the issue. Policies shall be posted on the district's web site when required by law.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.5 Annual review of school district policies

35163 Official actions, minutes and journal

35164 Vote requirements

*Management Resources:*

WEB SITES

CSBA, Policy Services, including Policy Update Service, Governance and Management Using Technology (GAMUT Online), Policy Review Program, Individual District Policy Workshops, Agenda Online, and Manual Maintenance: <http://www.csba.org/ps>

**MEETINGS AND NOTICES**

Meetings of the Board of Education are conducted for the purpose of accomplishing district business. In accordance with state open meeting laws (Brown Act), the Board shall hold its meetings in public and shall conduct closed sessions during such meetings only as authorized by law. To encourage community involvement in the schools, Board meetings shall provide opportunities for questions and comments by members of the public. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with law and the Board's bylaws, policies, and administrative regulations.

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

*(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)*

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

A Board meeting exists whenever a majority of Board members gather at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board or district. (Government Code 54952.2)

A majority of the Board shall not, outside of an authorized meeting, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. However, an employee or district official may engage in separate conversations with Board members in order to answer questions or provide information regarding an item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, as long as that employee or district official does not communicate the comments or position of any Board members to other Board members. (Government Code 54952.2)

*(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)*

In order to help ensure the participation of individuals with disabilities at Board meetings, the Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate disability-related accommodations or modifications upon request in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Government Code 54953.2, 54954.1)

**Regular Meetings**

The Board shall hold at least one regular meeting each month, except for the month of July. Regular meetings shall be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Room at the Education Center, 2425 Jefferson Street, unless other locations designated. The date, time, and place of each regular meeting is subject to change according to the Board meeting notice procedures.

At least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, the agenda shall be posted at one or more locations freely accessible to members of the public and on the district's Internet web site. (Government Code 54954.2)

*(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)*

## **MEETINGS AND NOTICES** (continued)

Whenever agenda materials relating to an open session of a regular meeting are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall make the materials available for public inspection at a public office or location designated for that purpose. (Government Code 54957.5)

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*

### **Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the presiding officer or a majority of the Board members. However, a special meeting shall not be called regarding the salary, salary schedule, or other compensation of the Superintendent, assistant superintendent, or other management employee as described in Government Code 3511.1. (Government Code 54956)

*(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)*

Written notice of special meetings shall be delivered personally or by any other means to all Board members and the local media who have requested such notice in writing. The notice also shall be posted on the district's Internet web site. The notice shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting. The notice shall also be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting in a location freely accessible to the public. The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted or discussed. No other business shall be considered at this meeting. (Education Code 35144; Government Code 54956)

Any Board member may waive the 24-hour written notice requirement prior to the time of the meeting by filing a written waiver of notice with the clerk or secretary of the Board or by being present at the meeting at the time it convenes. (Government Code 54956)

Every notice of a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board concerning any item that has been described in the meeting notice, before or during the item's consideration. (Government Code 54954.3)

### **Emergency Meetings**

In the case of an *emergency situation* for which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, the Board may hold an emergency meeting without complying with the 24-hour notice and/or 24-hour posting requirement for special meetings pursuant to Government Code 54956. The Board shall comply with all other requirements for special meetings during an emergency meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

## **MEETINGS AND NOTICES** (continued)

*An emergency situation* means either of the following: (Government Code 54956.5)

1. An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board

*(cf. 4141.6/4241.6 - Concerted Action/Work Stoppage)*

2. A dire emergency, which shall be defined as a crippling disaster, mass destruction, terrorist activity, or threatened terrorist act that poses peril so immediate and significant that requiring the Board to provide one-hour notice before holding an emergency meeting may endanger the public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board

*(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)*

Except in the case of a dire emergency, the Board president or designee shall give notice of the emergency meeting by telephone at least one hour before the meeting to the local media that have requested notice of special meetings. All telephone numbers provided by the media in the most recent request for notification must be exhausted. If telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirement of one hour is waived and, as soon after the meeting as possible, the Board shall notify those media representatives of the meeting and shall describe the purpose of the meeting and any action taken by the Board. In the case of a dire emergency, the Board president or designee shall give such notice at or near the time he/she notifies the other members of the Board about the meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

The minutes of the meeting, a list of persons the Board president or designee notified or attempted to notify, a copy of the roll call vote, and any actions taken at the meeting shall be posted for at least 10 days in a public place as soon after the meeting as possible. (Government Code 54956.5)

### **Adjourned/Continued Meetings**

A majority vote by the Board may adjourn/continue any regular or special meeting to a later time and place that shall be specified in the order of adjournment. Less than a quorum of the Board may adjourn such a meeting. If no Board members are present, the secretary or the clerk may declare the meeting adjourned to a later time and shall give notice in the same manner required for special meetings. (Government Code 54955)

Within 24 hours after the time of adjournment, a copy of the order or notice of adjournment/continuance shall be conspicuously posted on or near the door of the place where the meeting was held. (Government Code 54955)

## **MEETINGS AND NOTICES** (continued)

### **Study Sessions, Retreats, Public Forums, and Discussion Meetings**

The Board may occasionally convene a study session or public forum to study an issue in more detail or to receive information from staff or feedback from members of the public.

The Board may also convene a retreat or discussion meeting to discuss Board roles and relationships.

*(cf. 2000 - Concepts and Roles)*

*(cf. 2111 - Superintendent Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)*

Public notice shall be given in accordance with law when a quorum of the Board is attending a study session, retreat, public forum, or discussion meeting. All such meetings shall comply with the Brown Act and shall be held in open session and within district boundaries. Action items shall not be included on the agenda for these meetings.

### **Other Gatherings**

Attendance by a majority of Board members at any of the following events is not subject to the Brown Act provided that a majority of the Board members do not discuss specific district business among themselves other than as part of the scheduled program: (Government Code 54952.2)

1. A conference or similar public gathering open to the public that involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or to school board members
2. An open, publicized meeting organized by a person or organization other than the district to address a topic of local community concern
3. An open and noticed meeting of another body of the district
4. An open and noticed meeting of a legislative body of another local agency
5. A purely social or ceremonial occasion
6. An open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of the Board, provided that the Board members who are not members of the standing committee attend only as observers

*(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)*



## **MEETINGS AND NOTICES** (continued)

Individual contacts or conversations between a Board member and any other person are not subject to the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.2)

### **Location of Meetings**

Meetings shall not be held in a facility that prohibits the admittance of any person on the basis of ancestry or any characteristic listed in Government Code 11135, including, but not limited to, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. In addition, meetings shall not be held in a facility which is inaccessible to individuals with disabilities or where members of the public must make a payment or purchase in order to be admitted. (Government Code 54961)

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

Meetings shall be held within district boundaries, except to do any of the following: (Government Code 54954)

1. Comply with state or federal law or court order or attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which the district is a party
2. Inspect real or personal property which cannot conveniently be brought into the district, provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the property
3. Participate in meetings or discussions of multiagency significance, provided these meetings are held within one of the other agencies' boundaries, with all participating agencies giving the notice required by law
4. Meet in the closest meeting facility if the district has no meeting facility within its boundaries or if its principal office is located outside the district
5. Meet with elected or appointed state or federal officials when a local meeting would be impractical, solely to discuss legislative or regulatory issues affecting the district over which the state or federal officials have jurisdiction
6. Meet in or near a facility owned by the district but located outside the district, provided the meeting agenda is limited to items directly related to that facility
7. Visit the office of the district's legal counsel for a closed session on pending litigation, when doing so would reduce legal fees or costs
8. Attend conferences on nonadversarial collective bargaining techniques

## **MEETINGS AND NOTICES** (continued)

9. Interview residents of another district regarding the Board's potential employment of an applicant for Superintendent of the district
10. Interview a potential employee from another district

Meetings exempted from the boundary requirements, as specified in items #1-10 above, shall still be subject to the notice and open meeting requirements for regular and special meetings when a quorum of the Board attends the meeting.

If a fire, flood, earthquake, or other emergency renders the regular meeting place unsafe, meetings shall be held for the duration of the emergency at a place designated by the Board president or designee, who shall so inform all news media who have requested notice of special meetings by the most rapid available means of communication. (Government Code 54954)

### **Teleconferencing**

A teleconference is a meeting of the Board in which Board members are in different locations, connected by electronic means through audio and/or video. (Government Code 54953)

The Board may use teleconferences for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. All votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by roll call. (Government Code 54953)

During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the Board shall participate from locations within district boundaries. (Government Code 54953)

Agendas shall be posted at all teleconference locations and shall list all teleconference locations whenever they are posted elsewhere. Additional teleconference locations may be provided to the public. (Government Code 54953)

All teleconference locations shall be accessible to the public. All teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the Board, including the right of the public to address the Board directly at each teleconference location. (Government Code 54953)

All Board policies, administrative regulations, and bylaws shall apply equally to meetings that are teleconferenced. The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate public participation in the meeting at each teleconference location.

## MEETINGS AND NOTICES (continued)

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

- 35140 *Time and place of meetings*
- 35143 *Annual organizational meeting, date, and notice*
- 35144 *Special meeting*
- 35145 *Public meetings*
- 35145.5 *Agenda; public participation; regulations*
- 35146 *Closed sessions*
- 35147 *Open meeting law exceptions and applications*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

- 3511.1 *Local agency executives*
- 11135 *State programs and activities, discrimination*
- 54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*
- 54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance*
- 54954 *Time and place of regular meetings*
- 54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements, board actions*
- 54956 *Special meetings; call; notice*
- 54956.5 *Emergency meetings*

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

- 12101-12213 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

#### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

- 35.160 *Effective communications*
- 36.303 *Auxiliary aids and services*

#### COURT DECISIONS

- Wolfe v. City of Fremont, (2006) 144 Cal.App. 544

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- 88 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 218 (2005)
- 84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 181 (2001)
- 84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 30 (2001)
- 79 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 69 (1996)
- 78 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 327 (1995)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

- The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, rev. 2014

#### INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

- The ABCs of Open Government Laws*

#### LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

- Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 2010

#### WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
- CSBA, Agenda Online:  
<http://www.csba.org/Services/Services/GovernanceTechnology/AgendaOnline.aspx>
- California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.ag.ca.gov>
- Institute for Local Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>
- League of California Cities: <http://www.cacities.org>

**CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS**

The Board of Education is committed to complying with state open meeting laws and modeling transparency in its conduct of district business. The Board shall hold closed sessions only for purposes authorized by law. A closed session may be held during a regular, special, or emergency meeting in accordance with law.

Each agenda shall contain a general description of each closed session item to be discussed at the meeting, as required by law. (Government Code 54954.2)

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

The Board shall disclose in open session the items to be discussed in closed session. In the closed session, the Board may consider only those matters covered in its statement. After the closed session, the Board shall reconvene in open session before adjourning the meeting, and when applicable, shall disclose any action taken in the closed session, in the manner prescribed by Government Code 54957.1. (Government Code 54957.7)

*(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)*

The Board shall not disclose any information that is protected by state or federal law. In addition, no victim or alleged victim of tortious sexual conduct or child abuse shall be identified in any Board agenda, notice, announcement, or report required by the Brown Act, unless the identity of the person has previously been publicly disclosed. (Government Code 54957.7, 54961)

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*

A Board member shall not disclose confidential information received in a closed session unless the Board authorizes the disclosure of that information. (Government Code 54963)

*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

**Personnel Matters**

The Board may hold a closed session under the "personnel exception" to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, discipline, or dismissal of an employee. Such a closed session shall not include discussion or action on proposed compensation except for a reduction of compensation that results from the imposition of discipline. (Government Code 54957)

*(cf. 2140 - Evaluation of the Superintendent)*

*(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)*

*(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

*(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)*

*(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

*(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/Supervision)*

## **CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS** (continued)

The Board may also hold a closed session to hear complaints or charges brought against an employee by another person or employee, unless the employee requests an open session. Before the Board holds a closed session on specific complaints or charges brought against an employee, the employee shall receive written notice of his/her right to have the complaints or charges heard in open session if desired. This notice shall be delivered personally or by mail at least 24 hours before the time of the session. (Government Code 54957)

*(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*  
*(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)*

The Board may hold a closed session to discuss a district employee's application for early withdrawal of funds in a deferred compensation plan when the application is based on financial hardship arising from an unforeseeable emergency due to illness, accident, casualty, or other extraordinary event, as specified in the deferred compensation plan. (Government Code 54957.10)

Agenda items related to district employee appointments and employment shall describe the position to be filled. Agenda items related to performance evaluations shall specify the title of the employee being reviewed. Agenda items related to employee discipline, dismissal, or release require no additional information. (Government Code 54954.5)

## **Negotiations/Collective Bargaining**

Unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties involved, the following shall not be subject to the Brown Act: (Government Code 3549.1)

1. Any meeting and negotiating discussion between the district and a recognized or certified employee organization
2. Any meeting of a mediator with either party or both parties to the meeting and negotiating process
3. Any hearing, meeting, or investigation conducted by a factfinder or arbitrator
4. Any executive (closed) session of the district or between the district and its designated representative for the purpose of discussing its position regarding any matter within the scope of representation and instructing its designated representatives

*(cf. 4140/4240/4340 - Bargaining Units)*  
*(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)*  
*(cf. 4143.1/4243.1 - Public Notice - Personnel Negotiations)*

## **CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)**

The Board may meet in closed session to review the Board's position and/or instruct its designated representative regarding salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of its represented and unrepresented employees. Prior to the closed session, the Board shall identify its designated representative in open session. Any closed session held for this purpose may include discussions of the district's available funds and funding priorities, but only insofar as they relate to providing instructions to the Board's designated representative. (Government Code 54957.6)

*(cf. 2121 – Superintendent's Contract)*

Closed sessions may take place prior to and during consultations and discussions with representatives of employee organizations and unrepresented employees. For unrepresented employees, closed sessions held pursuant to Government Code 54957.6 shall not include final action on the proposed compensation of one or more unrepresented employees. (Government Code 54957.6)

For represented employees, the Board may also meet in closed session regarding any other matter within the statutorily provided scope of representation. (Government Code 54957.6)

The Board also may meet in closed session with a state conciliator or mediator who has intervened in proceedings regarding any of the purposes enumerated in Government Code 54957.6.

Agenda items related to negotiations shall specify the name of the district's designated representative(s) attending the closed session. If circumstances necessitate the absence of a specified designated representative, an agent or designee may participate in place of the absent representative as long as the name of the agent or designee is announced at an open session held prior to the closed session. The agenda shall also specify the name of the organization representing the employee(s) or the position title of the unrepresented employee who is the subject of the negotiations. (Government Code 54954.5)

## **Matters Related to Students**

The Board shall meet in closed session to consider the expulsion of a student, unless the student submits a written request at least five days before the date of the hearing that the hearing be held in open session. Regardless of whether the expulsion hearing is conducted in open or closed session, the Board may meet in closed session for the purpose of deliberating and determining whether the student should be expelled. (Education Code 48918)

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))*

## **CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS** (continued)

The Board shall meet in closed session to address any student matter that may involve disclosure of confidential student information, or to consider a suspension, disciplinary action, or any other action against a student except expulsion. If a written request for open session is received from the parent/guardian or adult student, it will be honored to the extent that it does not violate the privacy rights of any other student. (Education Code 35146, 48912, 49070)

*(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)*

*(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)*

*(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

Agenda items related to student matters shall briefly describe the reason for the closed session, such as "student expulsion hearing" or "grade change appeal," without violating the confidentiality rights of individual students. The student shall not be named on the agenda, but a number may be assigned to the student in order to facilitate record keeping. The agenda shall also state that the Education Code requires closed sessions in these cases in order to prevent the disclosure of confidential student record information.

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

## **Security Matters**

The Board may meet in closed session with the Governor, Attorney General, district attorney, district legal counsel, sheriff or chief of police, or their respective deputies, or a security consultant or a security operations manager, on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings; to the security of essential public services, including water, drinking water, wastewater treatment, natural gas service, and electric service; or to the public's right of access to public services or public facilities. (Government Code 54957)

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)*

*(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)*

The Board may meet in closed session during an emergency meeting held pursuant to Government Code 54956.5 to meet with law enforcement officials for the emergency purposes specified in Government Code 54957 if agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present. If less than two-thirds of the members are present, then the Board must agree by a unanimous vote of the members present. (Government Code 54956.5)

Agenda items related to security matters shall specify the name of the law enforcement agency and the title of the officer, or name of applicable agency representative and title, with whom the Board will consult. (Government Code 54954.5)

## **CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)**

### **Conference with Real Property Negotiator**

The Board may meet in closed session with its real property negotiator prior to the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property by or for the district in order to grant its negotiator authority regarding the price and terms of payment for the property. (Government Code 54956.8)

Before holding the closed session, the Board shall hold an open and public session to identify its negotiator(s) and the property under negotiation and to specify the person(s) with whom the negotiator may negotiate. (Government Code 54956.8)

For purposes of real property transactions, negotiators may include members of the Board. (Government Code 54956.8)

Agenda items related to real property negotiations shall specify the district negotiator attending the closed session. If circumstances necessitate the absence of a specified negotiator, an agent or designee may participate in place of the absent negotiator as long as the name of the agent or designee is announced at an open session held prior to the closed session. The agenda shall also specify the name of the negotiating parties and the street address of the real property under negotiation. If there is no street address, the agenda item shall specify the parcel number or another unique reference of the property. The agenda item shall also specify whether instruction to the negotiator will concern price, terms of payment, or both. (Government Code 54954.5)

### **Pending Litigation**

Based on the advice of its legal counsel, the Board may hold a closed session to confer with or receive advice from its legal counsel regarding a pending litigation when a discussion of the matter in open session would prejudice the district's position in the litigation. For this purpose, "litigation" means any adjudicatory proceeding, including eminent domain, before a court, administrative body exercising its adjudicatory authority, hearing officer, or arbitrator. (Government Code 54956.9)

Litigation is considered "pending" in any of the following circumstances: (Government Code 54956.9)

1. Litigation to which the district is a "party" has been initiated formally. (Government Code 54956.9(a))
2. A point has been reached where, in the Board's opinion based on the advice of its legal counsel regarding the "existing facts and circumstances," there is a "significant exposure to litigation" against the district, or the Board is meeting solely to determine whether, based on existing facts or circumstances, a closed session is authorized. (Government Code 54956.9(b))



**CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS** (continued)

*Existing facts and circumstances* for these purposes are limited to the following:  
(Government Code 54956.9)

- a. Facts and circumstances that might result in litigation against the district but which the district believes are not yet known to potential plaintiffs and which do not need to be disclosed.
- b. Facts and circumstances including, but not limited to, an accident, disaster, incident, or transactional occurrence which might result in litigation against the district, which are already known to potential plaintiffs and which must be publicly disclosed before the closed session or specified on the agenda.
- c. The receipt of a claim pursuant to the Tort Claims Act or a written threat of litigation from a potential plaintiff. The claim or written communication must be available for public inspection.

*(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)*

- d. A threat of litigation made by a person in an open meeting on a specific matter within the responsibility of the Board.
  - e. A threat of litigation made by a person outside of an open meeting on a specific matter within the responsibility of the Board, provided that the district official or employee receiving knowledge of the threat made a record of the statement before the meeting and the record is available for public inspection. Such record does not need to identify an alleged victim of tortious sexual conduct or anyone making a threat on his/her behalf or identify an employee who is the alleged perpetrator of any unlawful or tortious conduct, unless the identity of this person has been publicly disclosed.
3. Based on existing facts and circumstances, the Board has decided to initiate or is deciding whether to initiate litigation. (Government Code 54956.9(c))

Before holding a closed session pursuant to the pending litigation exception, the Board shall state on the agenda or publicly announce the subdivision of Government Code 54956.9 under which the closed session is being held. If authority is based on Government Code 54956.9(a), the Board shall either state the title or specifically identify the litigation to be discussed or state that doing so would jeopardize the district's ability to effectuate service of process upon unserved parties or to conclude existing settlement negotiations to its advantage. (Government Code 54956.9)

## **CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS** (continued)

Agenda items related to pending litigation shall be described as a conference with legal counsel regarding either "existing litigation" or "anticipated litigation." (Government Code 54954.5)

"Existing litigation" items shall identify the name of the case specified by either the claimant's name, names of parties, or case or claim number, unless the Board states that to identify the case would jeopardize service of process or existing settlement negotiations. (Government Code 54954.5)

"Anticipated litigation" items shall state that there is significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(b) and shall specify the potential number of cases. When the district expects to initiate a suit, items related to anticipated litigation shall state that the discussion relates to the initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(c) and shall specify the potential number of cases. The agenda or an oral statement before the closed session may be required to provide additional information regarding existing facts and circumstances described in item #2 b-e above. (Government Code 54954.5)

### **Joint Powers Agency Issues**

The Board may meet in closed session to discuss a claim for the payment of tort liability losses, public liability losses, or workers' compensation liability incurred by a joint powers agency (JPA) formed for the purpose of insurance pooling or self-insurance authority of which the district is a member. (Government Code 54956.95)

Closed session agenda items related to liability claims shall specify the claimant's name and the name of the agency against which the claim is made. (Government Code 54954.5)

*(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)*

When the board of the JPA has so authorized and upon advice of district legal counsel, the Board may meet in closed session in order to receive, discuss, and take action concerning information obtained in a closed session of the JPA. During the Board's closed session, a Board member serving on the JPA board may disclose confidential information acquired during a closed session of the JPA to fellow Board members. (Government Code 54956.96)

The Board member may also disclose the confidential JPA information to district legal counsel in order to obtain advice on whether the matter has direct financial or liability implications for the district. (Government Code 54956.96)

Closed session agenda items related to conferences involving a JPA shall specify the closed session description used by the JPA and the name of the Board member representing the

## **CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)**

district on the JPA board. Additional information listing the names of agencies or titles of representatives attending the closed session as consultants or other representatives shall also be included. (Government Code 54954.5)

### **Review of Audit Report from California State Auditor's Office**

Upon receipt of a confidential final draft audit report from the California State Auditor's Office, the Board may meet in closed session to discuss its response to that report. After public release of the report from the California State Auditor's Office, any Board meeting to discuss the report must be conducted in open session, unless exempted from that requirement by some other provision of law. (Government Code 54956.75)

Closed session agenda items related to an audit by the California State Auditor's Office shall state "Audit by California State Auditor's Office." (Government Code 54954.5)

### **Review of Assessment Instruments**

The Board may meet in closed session to review the contents of any student assessment instrument approved or adopted for the statewide testing system. Before any such meeting, the Board shall agree by resolution to accept any terms or conditions established by the State Board of Education for this review. (Education Code 60617)

*(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)*

Agenda items related to the review of student assessment instruments shall state that the Board is reviewing the contents of an assessment instrument approved or adopted for the statewide testing program and that Education Code 60617 authorizes a closed session for this purpose in order to maintain the confidentiality of the assessment under review.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## **CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)**

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

35145 *Public meetings*

35146 *Closed session (re student suspension)*

44929.21 *Districts with ADA of 250 or more*

48912 *Governing board suspension*

48918 *Rules governing expulsion procedures; hearings and notice*

49070 *Challenging content of students records*

60617 *Meetings of governing board*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

3540-3549.3 *Educational Employment Relations Act*

6252-6270 *California Public Records Act*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act*

#### COURT DECISIONS

*Morrison v. Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Board of Commissioners*, (2003) 107 Cal.App.4th 860

*Bell v. Vista Unified School District*, (2001) 82 Cal.App. 4th 672

*Fischer v. Los Angeles Unified School District*, (1999) 70 Cal.App. 4th 87

*Furtado v. Sierra Community College District* (1998) 68 Cal.App. 4th 876

*Roberts v. City of Palmdale*, (1993) 5 Cal.App. 4th 363

*Sacramento Newspaper Guild v. Sacramento County Board of Supervisors*, (1968) 263 Cal.App. 2d 41

*San Diego Union v. City Council*, (1983) 146 Cal.App.3d 947

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

94 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 82 (2011)

86 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 210 (2003)

78 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 218 (1995)

59 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 532 (1976)

57 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 209 (1974)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, 2009

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies*, 2003

#### LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

*Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act*, rev. July 2010

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

League of California Cities: <http://www.cacities.org>

**CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS AND REPORTS**

No matters other than those announced in open session shall be acted upon during the closed session. (Government Code 54957.7)

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

The Board of Education shall reconvene in open session before adjourning and report closed session actions, the votes or abstentions thereon, and other disclosures required by Government Code 54957.1. These disclosures may be made at the location announced in the agenda for the closed session, as long as the public is allowed to be present at that location for the purpose of hearing them. (Government Code 54957.7)

**Personnel Matters**

The Board shall report any personnel action taken and the votes or abstentions thereon at the public meeting during which the closed session is held. This report shall identify the title of the position. However, the report of a dismissal or nonrenewal of an employment contract shall be deferred until the first public meeting after administrative remedies, if any, have been exhausted. (Government Code 54957.1)

*(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*

*(cf. 2140 - Evaluation of the Superintendent)*

*(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

*(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

**Negotiations/Collective Bargaining**

Final action on the proposed compensation of one or more unrepresented employees shall not be taken during the closed session. (Government Code 54957.6)

Approval of an agreement concluding closed session labor negotiations with represented employees shall be reported after the agreement is final and has been accepted or ratified by the other party. This report shall identify the item approved and the other party or parties to the negotiation. (Government Code 54957.1)

*(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)*

*(cf. 4143.1/4243.1 - Public Notice - Personnel Negotiations)*

**Student Matters**

Actions related to student matters shall be taken in open session and shall be a matter of public record. No information shall be released in violation of student privacy rights provided in law. (Education Code 35146, 48918; 20 USC 1232)

In an expulsion action, the student's name shall not be disclosed.

## **CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS AND REPORTS (continued)**

*(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)*

*(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)*

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

*(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

### **Real Estate Negotiations**

Approval of an agreement concluding real estate negotiations shall be reported after the agreement is final. If the Board renders the agreement final, it shall report that approval, the votes or abstentions thereon, and the substance of the agreement in open session at the public meeting during which the closed session is held. If final approval rests with the other party, the Superintendent or designee shall disclose the fact of that approval and the substance of the agreement upon inquiry by any person, as soon as the other party or its agent has informed the district of its approval. (Government Code 54957.1)

### **Pending Litigation**

The Board shall report the following actions related to pending litigation, and the votes or abstentions thereon, at the public meeting during which the closed session is held: (Government Code 54957.1)

1. Approval to legal counsel to defend, appeal or not appeal, or otherwise appear in litigation. This report shall identify the adverse parties, if known, and the substance of the litigation.
2. Approval to legal counsel to initiate or intervene in a lawsuit. This report shall state that directions to initiate or intervene in the action have been given and that details will be disclosed to inquiring parties after the lawsuit is commenced unless doing so would jeopardize the district's ability to serve process on unserved parties or its ability to conclude existing settlement negotiations to its advantage.
3. Acceptance of a signed offer from the other party or parties which finalizes the settlement of pending litigation. This report shall state the substance of the agreement.

If approval is given to legal counsel to settle pending litigation and if final approval rests with the other party or with the court, the district shall report the fact of approval, the substance of the agreement and the vote and abstentions thereon to persons who inquire once the settlement is final. (Government Code 54957.1)

## **CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS AND REPORTS (continued)**

### **JPA/Self-Insurance Claims**

The Board shall report the disposition of joint powers authority or self-insurance claims and the votes or abstentions thereon at the public meeting during which the closed session is held. This report shall include the name of the claimant(s), the name of the agency claimed against, the substance of the claim and the monetary settlement agreed upon by the claimant. (Government Code 54957.1)

*(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)*  
*(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)*

### **Review of Assessment Instruments**

At the public meeting during which the Board holds a closed session to review student assessment instruments, the Board shall confirm that this review was made. Any actions related to the review shall be taken in open session without revealing any proprietary or confidential information and shall be a matter of public record.

*(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)*

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### EDUCATION CODE

35145 *Public meetings*

35146 *Closed session (re student matters)*

48918 *Rules governing expulsion procedures; hearings and notice*

49073-49079 *Privacy of student records*

60617 *Meetings of governing board*

##### GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*

54957.1 *Closed sessions; public report of action taken*

54957.6 *Closed sessions; representatives to employee organization(s)*

54957.7 *Disclosure of items to be discussed*

##### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*

##### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.8 *Family Educational Rights and Privacy*

##### COURT DECISIONS

*Kleitman v. Superior Court of Santa Clara County* 87 Cal Rptr. 2d (1999)

##### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 85 (1997)

## **AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS**

### **Agenda Content**

Board of Education meeting agendas shall reflect the district's vision and goals and the Board's focus on student learning.

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

Each agenda shall state the meeting time and place and shall briefly describe each business item to be transacted or discussed, including items to be discussed in closed session. (Government Code 54954.2)

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

The agenda shall provide members of the public the opportunity to address the Board on any agenda item before or during the Board's consideration of the item. However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for public comment when the agenda item has previously been considered at an open meeting of a committee comprised exclusively of Board members, provided that members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the item at that meeting and that the item has not been substantially changed since the committee considered it. (Government Code 54954.3)

The agenda for a regular Board meeting shall also provide members of the public an opportunity to provide comment on matters which are not on the agenda but which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54954.3)

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

Each agenda for a regular meeting shall list the address designated by the Superintendent or designee for public inspection of documents related to an open session item that have been distributed to the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting. (Government Code 54957.5)

The agenda shall include information regarding how, when, and to whom a request should be made if an individual requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board meeting. (Government Code 54954.2)

### **Agenda Preparation**

The Board president and the Superintendent, as secretary to the Board, shall work together to develop the agenda for each regular and special meeting.

*(cf. 9121 - President)*

*(cf. 9122 - Secretary)*



**AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS** (continued)

Any Board member or member of the public may request that a matter within the jurisdiction of the Board be placed on the agenda of a regular meeting. The request shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or designee with supporting documents and information, if any, at least one week before the scheduled meeting date. Items submitted less than a week before the scheduled meeting date may be postponed to a later meeting in order to allow sufficient time for consideration and research of the issue.

The Board president and Superintendent shall decide whether a request from a member of the public is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Items not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board may not be placed on the agenda. In addition, before placing the item on the agenda, the Board president and Superintendent shall determine if the item is merely a request for information or whether the issue is covered by an existing policy or administrative regulation.

If the Board president and Superintendent deny a request from a Board member to place an item on the agenda, the Board member may request the Board to take action to determine whether the item shall be placed on the agenda.

The Board president and Superintendent shall also decide whether an agenda item is appropriate for discussion in open or closed session, and whether the item should be an action item subject to Board vote or an information item that does not require immediate action.

In order to promote efficient meetings, the Board may bundle a number of items and act upon them together by a single vote through the use of a consent agenda. Consent items shall be items of a routine nature and items for which Board discussion is not anticipated and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. When any Board member requests the removal of an item from the consent agenda, the item shall be removed and given individual consideration for action as a regular agenda item.

The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to comment on any consent agenda item that has not been previously considered. (Government Code 54954.3)

Any Board action that involves borrowing \$100,000 or more shall be discussed, considered, and deliberated upon as a separate item of business on the meeting agenda. (Government Code 53635.7)

*(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)*

All public communications with the Board are subject to requirements of relevant Board policies and administrative regulations.

## **AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)**

*(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*  
*(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*  
*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*  
*(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)*  
*(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)*  
*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

### **Agenda Dissemination to Board Members**

At least 72 hours before each regular meeting, each Board member shall be provided a copy of the agenda and agenda packet, including the Superintendent or designee's report; minutes to be approved; copies of communications; reports from committees, staff, and others; and other available documents pertinent to the meeting.

When special meetings are called, Board members shall receive, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, notice of the business to be transacted. (Government Code 54956)

Board members shall review agenda materials before each meeting. Individual members may confer directly with the Superintendent or designee to ask questions and/or request additional information on agenda items. However, a majority of Board members shall not, outside of a noticed meeting, directly or through intermediaries or electronic means discuss, deliberate, or take action on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

*(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)*

### **Agenda Dissemination to Members of the Public**

Any agenda and related materials distributed to the Board shall be made available to the public upon request without delay. Only those documents which are disclosable public records under the Public Records Act and which relate to an agenda item scheduled for the open session portion of a regular meeting shall be made available to the public. (Government Code 54957.5)

At least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, the agenda shall be posted at one or more locations freely accessible to members of the public. (Government Code 54954.2)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall post the agenda on the homepage of the district web site. The posted agenda shall be accessible through a prominent direct link to the current agenda or to the district's agenda management platform in accordance with Government Code 54954.2. When the district utilizes an integrated agenda management platform, the link to that platform shall take the user directly to the web site with the district's agendas, and the current agenda shall be the first available. (Government Code 54954.2)

*(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)*  
*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*

**AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS** (continued)

If a document which relates to an open session agenda item of a regular Board meeting is distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to a meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall make the document available for public inspection at a designated location at the same time the document is distributed to all or a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54957.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall mail a copy of the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet to any person who requests the items. The materials shall be mailed at the time the agenda is posted or upon distribution of the agenda to a majority of the Board, whichever occurs first. (Government Code 54954.1)

Any request for mailed copies of agendas or agenda packets shall be in writing and shall be valid for the calendar year in which it is filed. Written requests must be renewed following January 1 of each year. (Government Code 54954.1)

Persons requesting mailing of the agenda or agenda packet shall pay an annual fee, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, not to exceed the cost of providing the service.

Any document prepared by the district or Board and distributed during a public meeting shall be made available for public inspection at the meeting. Any document prepared by another person shall be made available for public inspection after the meeting. These requirements shall not apply to a document that is exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records Act. (Government Code 54957.5)

Upon request, the Superintendent or designee shall make the agenda, agenda packet, and/or any writings distributed at the meeting available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Government Code 54954.1)

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## **AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)**

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

35144 *Special meetings*

35145 *Public meetings*

35145.5 *Right of public to place matters on agenda*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 *Public Records Act*

53635.7 *Separate item of business*

54954.1 *Mailed agenda of meeting*

54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements; board actions*

54954.3 *Opportunity for public to address legislative body*

54954.5 *Closed session item descriptions*

54956.5 *Emergency meetings*

54957.5 *Availability of public records*

54960.2 *Challenging board actions; cease and desist*

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12101-12213 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

#### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.160 *Effective communications*

36.303 *Auxiliary aids and services*

#### COURT DECISIONS

*Mooney v. Garcia*, (2012) 207 Cal.App.4th 229

*Caldwell v. Roseville Joint Union High School District*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66318

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

99 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 11 (2016)

78 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 327 (1995)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Call to Order: A Blueprint for Great Board Meetings*, 2015

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, rev. 2014

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies*, rev. 2003

#### WEB SITES

CSBA, Agenda Online: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

## **MEETING CONDUCT**

### **Meeting Procedures**

All Board of Education meetings shall begin on time and shall be guided by an agenda prepared in accordance with Board bylaws and posted and distributed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (open meeting requirements) and other applicable laws.

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

The Board president shall conduct Board meetings in accordance with Board bylaws and procedures that enable the Board to efficiently consider issues and carry out the will of the majority.

*(cf. 9121 - President)*

The Board believes that late night meetings deter public participation, can affect the Board's decision-making ability, and can be a burden to staff. Regular Board meetings shall be adjourned at 10:30 p.m. unless extended to a specific time determined by a majority of the Board. The meeting shall be extended no more than once and subsequently may be adjourned to a later date.

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

### **Quorum and Abstentions**

The Board shall act by majority vote of all of the membership constituting the Board. (Education Code 35164)

*(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)*

The Board believes that when no conflict of interest requires abstention, its members have a duty to vote on issues before them. When a member abstains, his/her abstention shall not be counted for purposes of determining whether a majority of the membership of the Board has taken action.

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

Provided the Board typically has seven members and there are no more than two vacancies on the Board, the vacant position(s) shall not be counted for purposes of determining how many members of the Board constitute a majority. In addition, whenever any provisions of the Education Code require unanimous action of all or a specific number of the members, the vacant position(s) shall not be counted for purposes of determining the total membership constituting the Board. (Education Code 35165)

## **MEETING CONDUCT** (continued)

### **Public Participation**

Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda or within the Board's jurisdiction. So as not to inhibit public participation, persons attending Board meetings shall not be requested to sign in, complete a questionnaire, or otherwise provide their name or other information as a condition of attending the meeting.

In order to conduct district business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board requires that public presentations to the Board comply with the following procedures:

1. The Board shall give members of the public an opportunity to address the Board on any item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, either before or during the Board's consideration of the item. (Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54954.3)
2. At a time so designated on the agenda at a regular meeting, members of the public may bring before the Board matters that are not listed on the agenda. The Board shall take no action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as authorized by law. (Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54954.2)
3. Without taking action, Board members or district staff members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by the public about items not appearing on the agenda. Additionally, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a Board or staff member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his/her own activities. (Government Code 54954.2)

Furthermore, the Board or a Board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, ask staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action directing staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (Government Code 54954.2)

4. The Board need not allow the public to speak on any item that has already been considered by a committee composed exclusively of Board members at a public meeting where the public had the opportunity to address the committee on that item. However, if the Board determines that the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, the Board shall provide an opportunity for the public to speak. (Government Code 54954.3)

*(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)*

**MEETING CONDUCT** (continued)

5. A person wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the president and shall then proceed to comment as briefly as the subject permits.

Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or nonagenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the Board president may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. The president may take a poll of speakers for or against a particular issue and may ask that additional persons speak only if they have something new to add.

In order to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the Board, any member of the public who utilizes a translator shall be provided at least twice the allotted time to address the Board, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used to allow the Board to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously. (Government Code 54954.3)

6. The Board president may rule on the appropriateness of a topic, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. If a topic would be suitably addressed at a later time, the Board president may indicate the time and place when it should be presented.
  - b. The Board shall not prohibit public criticism of its policies, procedures, programs, services, acts, or omissions. (Government Code 54954.3)
  - c. The Board shall not prohibit public criticism of district employees. Whenever a member of the public initiates specific complaints or charges against an employee, the Board president shall inform the complainant that in order to protect the employee's right to adequate notice before a hearing of such complaints and charges, and also to preserve the ability of the Board to legally consider the complaints or charges in any subsequent evaluation of the employee, it is the policy of the Board to hear such complaints or charges in closed session unless otherwise requested by the employee pursuant to Government Code 54957. The Board president shall also encourage the complainant to file a complaint using the appropriate district complaint procedure.

*(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

## **MEETING CONDUCT** (continued)

7. The Board president shall not permit any disturbance or willful interruption of Board meetings. Persistent disruption by an individual or group or any conduct or statements that threaten the safety of any person(s) at the meeting shall be grounds for the president to terminate the privilege of addressing the Board.

The Board may remove disruptive individuals and order the room cleared if necessary. In this case, members of the media not participating in the disturbance shall be allowed to remain, and individuals not participating in such disturbances may be allowed to remain at the discretion of the Board. When the room is ordered cleared due to a disturbance, further Board proceedings shall concern only matters appearing on the agenda. (Government Code 54957.9)

When such disruptive conduct occurs, the Superintendent or designee shall contact local law enforcement as necessary.

### **Recording by the Public**

Members of the public may record an open Board meeting using an audio or video recorder, still or motion picture camera, cell phone, or other device, provided that the noise, illumination, or obstruction of view does not persistently disrupt the meeting. The Superintendent or designee may designate locations from which members of the public may make such recordings without causing a distraction.

*(cf. 9324 - Board Minutes and Recordings)*

If the Board finds that noise, illumination, or obstruction of view related to these activities would persistently disrupt the proceedings, these activities shall be discontinued or restricted as determined by the Board. (Government Code 54953.5, 54953.6)

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### EDUCATION CODE

5095 Powers of remaining board members and new appointees

32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting a misdemeanor

35010 Prescription and enforcement of rules

35145.5 Agenda; public participation; regulations

35163 Official actions, minutes and journal

35164 Vote requirements

35165 Effect of vacancies upon majority and unanimous votes by seven member board

##### CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

527.8 Workplace Violence Safety Act

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*



## MEETING CONDUCT (continued)

### *Legal Reference: (continued)*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

54953.3 *Prohibition against conditions for attending a board meeting*

54953.5 *Audio or video recording of proceedings*

54953.6 *Broadcasting of proceedings*

54954.2 *Agenda; posting; action on other matters*

54954.3 *Opportunity for public to address legislative body; regulations*

54957 *Closed sessions*

54957.9 *Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room*

#### PENAL CODE

403 *Disruption of assembly or meeting*

#### COURT DECISIONS

*City of San Jose v. Garbett*, (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 526

*Norse v. City of Santa Cruz*, (9th Cir. 2010) 629 F3d 966

*McMahon v. Albany Unified School District*, (2002) 104 Cal.App.4th 1275

*Rubin v. City of Burbank*, (2002) 101 Cal.App.4th 1194

*Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District*, (1996) 936 F.Supp. 719

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

90 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 47 (2007)

76 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 281 (1993)

66 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 336 (1983)

63 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 215 (1980)

61 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 243, 253 (1978)

59 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 532 (1976)

55 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 26 (1972)

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Call to Order: A Blueprint for Great Board Meetings*, 2015

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, rev. 2014

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

*The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Local Legislative Bodies*, 2003

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD**

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 35164, a majority vote of all members of the Governing Board is necessary for an item to carry, even in those cases where some members are absent. Thus, for districts with a five-member board, an item will pass with three votes, even if only three members are present or there is a vacancy. Education Code 35165 details the effect of a vacancy in districts with a seven-member board. For language regarding vote requirements when a board member abstains, see BB 9323 - Meeting Conduct.

The law specifies certain board actions as requiring more than a majority vote; see E(1) 9323.2 for a list of such actions.

The Board of Education shall act by a majority vote of all of the membership constituting the Board, unless otherwise required by law. (Education Code 35164)

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)*

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

An "action" by the Board means: (Government Code 54952.6)

1. A collective decision by a majority of the Board members
2. A collective commitment or promise by a majority of the Board members to make a positive or negative decision
3. A vote by a majority of the Board members when sitting as the Board upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance

The Board shall not take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final. (Government Code 54953)

Actions taken by the Board in open session shall be recorded in the Board minutes. (Education Code 35145)

*(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)*

**Action on Non-Agenda Items**

Note: The Brown Act (Government Code 54950-54963) generally prohibits any action or discussion of items not on the posted agenda. However, Government Code 54954.2 provides for three specific and narrow situations in which the Board can act on an item not on the agenda, as specified below. Board members may also briefly respond to questions raised by members of the public concerning items not on the agenda; see BB 9323 - Meeting Conduct.

After publicly identifying the item, the Board may take action on a subject not appearing on the posted meeting agenda under any of the following conditions: (Government Code 54954.2)

## **ACTIONS BY THE BOARD** (continued)

1. When a majority of the Board determines that an emergency situation exists, as defined for emergency meetings pursuant to Government Code 54956.5
2. When two-thirds of the members present, or if less than two-thirds of the members are present then by a unanimous vote of all members present, determine that the need to take immediate action came to the district's attention after the agenda was posted
3. When an item appeared on the agenda of, and was continued from, a meeting that occurred not more than five days earlier

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)*

## **Challenging Board Actions**

Note: Government Code 54960 grants authority to the district attorney or any interested person to file a civil action asking the court to order the Board to stop or prevent Brown Act violations specified below. The Board should respond to legal challenges to its actions and consult legal counsel when necessary. Pursuant to Government Code 54960.5, a court may award court costs and reasonable attorney's fees to a plaintiff who successfully invalidates a Board action in violation of the Brown Act or successfully enforces one of the Brown Act's civil remedies provided in Government Code 54960-54960.2.

The district attorney's office or any interested person may file an action in court for the purpose of: (Government Code 54960, 54960.2)

1. Stopping or preventing the Board's violation or threatened violation of the Brown Act
2. Determining the applicability of the Brown Act to ongoing or future threatened Board actions
3. Determining the applicability of the Brown Act to a past action of the Board that is not specified in Government Code 54960.1, provided that:
  - a. Within nine months of the alleged violation, a cease and desist letter is submitted to the Board, clearly describing the past Board action and the nature of the alleged violation.

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54960.2, the Board may respond within 30 days of receiving the cease and desist letter. If the Board decides to respond to the letter with an unconditional commitment to desist from repeating the past action, the unconditional commitment is required to be substantially in the same form provided in Government Code 54960.2 and to be approved in an open session of the Board's regular or special meeting. For a sample unconditional commitment letter, see E(2) 9323.2.

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD** (continued)

- b. The time for the Board to respond has expired and the Board has not provided an unconditional commitment to cease and desist from and not repeat the past action alleged to have violated the Brown Act.
- c. The action is brought within the time required by Government Code 54960.2.
- 4. Determining the validity, under state or federal law, of any Board rule or action which penalizes any of its members or otherwise discourages their expression
- 5. Compelling the Board to audio record its closed sessions because of a court's finding of the Board's violation of any applicable Government Code provision

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54960.1, the district attorney's office or any interested person may file a lawsuit to invalidate (i.e., declare null and void) actions that violate specific provisions of the Brown Act listed in Government Code 54960.1 and specified below. However, even when the action may normally be subject to invalidation, Government Code 54960.1 provides that in certain circumstances (e.g., when there has been substantial compliance with the Brown Act or the Board action resulted in a contract with a party who detrimentally relied on the action in good faith and without notice of a challenge to its validity), the action may not be invalidated.

Before seeking court action, the person who believes a violation occurred must send a written demand to the Board to "cure or correct" the action as specified below. Because the laws regarding these provisions are complex, it is recommended that the district consult with legal counsel upon receipt of a "cure and correct" demand.

The district attorney or any interested person may file an action in court to nullify a Board action which is alleged to be in violation of law regarding any of the following: (Government Code 54960.1)

- 1. Open meeting and teleconferencing (Government Code 54953)
- 2. Agenda posting (Government Code 54954.2)
- 3. Closed session item descriptions (Government Code 54954.5)
- 4. New or increased tax assessments (Government Code 54954.6)
- 5. Special meetings (Government Code 54956)
- 6. Emergency meetings (Government Code 54956.5)

Prior to bringing any action to nullify a Board action, the district attorney or other interested person shall present a demand to "cure and correct" the alleged violation. The demand shall clearly describe the challenged action and the nature of the alleged violation and shall be

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD** (continued)

presented to the Board in writing within 90 days of the date when the action was taken. If the alleged violation concerns action taken in an open session but in violation of Government Code 54954.2 (agenda posting), the written demand must be made within 30 days of the date when the alleged action took place. (Government Code 54960.1)

Within 30 days of receiving the demand, the Board shall do one of the following: (Government Code 54960.1)

1. Cure or correct the challenged action and inform the demanding party in writing of its actions to cure or correct.
2. Determine not to cure or correct the alleged violation and inform the demanding party in writing of its decision to not cure or correct.
3. Take no action. If the Board takes no action within the 30-day period, its inaction shall be considered a decision not to cure or correct the challenged action.

*Legal Reference:*

**EDUCATION CODE**

*15266 School construction bonds*

*17466 Declaration of intent to sell or lease real property*

*17481 Lease of property with residence for nondistrict purposes*

*17510-17512 Leasing for production of gas, resolution requiring unanimous vote*

*17546 Private sale of personal property*

*17556-17561 Dedication of real property*

*35140-35149 Meetings*

*35160-35178.4 Powers and duties*

*48660-48661 Community day schools, establishment and restrictions*

**CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE**

*425.16 Special motion to strike in connection with a public issue*

*1245.240 Eminent domain vote requirements*

*1245.245 Eminent domain, resolution adopting different use*

**GOVERNMENT CODE**

*53090-53097.5 Regulation of local agencies by counties and cities*

*53724 Parcel tax resolution requirements*

*53790-53792 Exceeding the budget*

*53820-53833 Temporary borrowing*

*53850-53858 Temporary borrowing*

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*

## **ACTIONS BY THE BOARD (continued)**

### *Legal Reference: (continued)*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE (continued)

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*

54952.6 *Action taken, definition*

54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance; prohibition against secret ballots*

54960-54960.5 *Actions to prevent violations*

65352.2 *Coordination with planning agency*

#### PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE

3400 *Bid specifications*

20111 *Contracts over \$50,000; contracts for construction; award to lowest responsible bidder*

20113 *Emergencies, award of contracts without bids*

20114 *Repairs, maintenance, and improvements to district facilities by day labor or force account*

22034 *Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act informal bidding ordinance*

22035 *Repair or replacement of facilities in case of emergency*

22050 *Emergency contracting procedures*

#### COURT DECISIONS

Los Angeles Times Communications LLC v. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (2003) 112 Cal.App.4th 1313

McKee v. Orange Unified School District (2003) 110 Cal.App.4th 1310

Bell v. Vista Unified School District (2002) 82 Cal.App.4th 672

Boyle v. City of Redondo Beach (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 1109

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, 2014

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Local Legislative Bodies, 2003

#### LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act 2nd Edition, rev. July 2010

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Institute for Local Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

Office of the Attorney General: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD**

**ACTIONS REQUIRING A SUPER MAJORITY VOTE**

Note: The following exhibit lists some of the Governing Board actions that require more than a simple majority vote. Other such actions may exist and may be identified in the future.

**Actions Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote of the Board:**

Note: For an action requiring a two-thirds vote to pass, a three-member board will need two board members to vote in favor of the item, a five-member board will need four board members to vote in favor of the item, and a seven-member board will need five board members to vote in favor of the item.

1. Resolution declaring the Board of Education's intention to sell or lease real property (Education Code 17466)

*(cf. 3280 - Sale or Lease of District-Owned Real Property)*

2. Resolution declaring the Board's intent to convey or dedicate property to the state or any political subdivision for the purposes specified in Education Code 17556 (Education Code 17557)
3. Resolution authorizing and directing the Board president, or any other presiding officer, secretary, or member, to execute a deed of dedication or conveyance of property to the state or a political subdivision (Education Code 17559)
4. Lease, for up to three months, of school property which has a residence on it and which cannot be developed for district purposes because funds are unavailable (Education Code 17481)

Note: Item #5 below is different from temporary borrowing pursuant to Government Code 53850-53858 which requires only a majority vote of the Board.

5. Request for temporary borrowing of funds needed for immediate requirements of the district to pay district obligations incurred before the receipt of district income for the fiscal year sufficient to meet the payment(s) (Government Code 53821)
6. Upon complying with Government Code 65352.2 and Public Resources Code 21151.2, action to render city or county zoning ordinances inapplicable to a proposed use of the property by the district (Government Code 53094)

*(cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)*  
*(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)*  
*(cf. 7160 - Charter School Facilities)*

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD** (continued)

7. When the district is organized to serve only grades K-8, action to establish a community day school for any of grades K-8 (Education Code 48660)

*(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)*

8. When the district is organized to serve only grades K-8, has an average daily attendance (ADA) of 2,500 or less, or desires to operate a community day school to serve any of grades K-6 (and no higher grades) and seeks to situate a community day school on an existing school site, certification that satisfactory alternative facilities are not available for a community day school (Education Code 48661)

9. Resolution of intent to issue general obligation bonds with the approval of 55 percent of the voters of the district (Education Code 15266)

*(cf. 7214 - General Obligation Bonds)*

10. Resolution of intent to issue bonds within a school facilities improvement district with the approval of 55 percent of the voters of the school facilities improvement district (Education Code 15266)

*(cf. 7213 - School Facilities Improvement Districts)*

11. Resolution to place a parcel tax on the ballot (Government Code 53724)

Note: Code of Civil Procedure 1245.240 requires that, prior to commencing an eminent domain action, the Board adopt a resolution of necessity approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board unless a greater vote is required by statute, charter, or ordinance. In addition, if the Board desires to use the property for a different purpose than stated in the resolution of necessity, then pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure 1245.245, the Board must adopt, by two-thirds vote, another resolution authorizing the different use unless a greater vote is required by statute, charter, or ordinance.

12. Resolution of necessity to proceed with an eminent domain action and, if the Board subsequently desires to use the property for a different use than stated in the resolution of necessity, a subsequent resolution so authorizing the different use (Code of Civil Procedure 1245.240, 1245.245)

Note: Item #13 is for use by three-member boards.

13. When the district has a three-member Board, action to respond to an emergency facilities condition without giving notice for bids to let contracts, including the repair or replacement of district facilities, the taking of any other action that is directly related to and immediately required by that emergency, the procurement of the necessary equipment, services, and supplies for those purposes, the delegation of



**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD** (continued)

authority to the Superintendent or designee to take such action, and the determination during a regular Board meeting of the need to continue the action (Public Contract Code 22035, 22050)

**Actions Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote of the Board Members Present at the Meeting:**

1. Determination that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the district's attention after the posting of the agenda. If less than two-thirds of the Board members are present at the meeting, a unanimous vote of all members present is required. (Government Code 54954.2)
2. Determination that a closed session is necessary during an emergency meeting. If less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote of all members present is required. (Government Code 54956.5)

*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

**Actions Requiring a Four-Fifths Vote of the Board:**

Note: For an action requiring a four-fifths vote to pass, a three-member board will need a unanimous vote in favor of the item, a five-member board will need four board members to vote in favor of the item, and a seven-member board will need six board members to vote in favor of the item.
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1. Expenditure and transfer of necessary funds and use of district property or personnel to meet a national or local emergency created by war, military, naval, or air attack, or sabotage, or to provide for adequate national or local defense (Government Code 53790-53792)

*(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)*

2. Resolution for district borrowing based on issuance of notes, tax anticipation warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness, in an amount up to 50 percent of the district's estimated income and revenue for the fiscal year or the portion not yet collected at the time of the borrowing (Government Code 53822, 53824)
3. Resolution for district borrowing, between July 15 and August 30 of any fiscal year, of up to 25 percent of the estimated income and revenue to be received by the district during that fiscal year from apportionments based on ADA for the preceding school year (Government Code 53823-53824)

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD** (continued)

4. Declaration of an emergency in order to authorize the district to include a particular brand name or product in a bid specification (Public Contract Code 3400)

*(cf. 3311 - Bids)*

Note: Item #5 is for use by districts governed by a five-member or seven-member board.
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5. When the district has a five-member or seven-member Board, action to respond to an emergency facilities condition without giving notice for bids to let contracts, including the repair or replacement of district facilities, the taking of any other action that is directly related to and immediately required by that emergency, the procurement of the necessary equipment, services, and supplies for those purposes, the delegation of authority to the Superintendent or designee to take such action, and the determination during a regular Board meeting of the need to continue the action (Public Contract Code 22035, 22050)

Note: AB 2249 (Ch. 169, Statutes of 2018) amended Public Contract Code 22034 to change the thresholds for public works projects bid pursuant to the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act, thereby increasing the amount requiring board resolution, as provided in item #6.
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6. Resolution to award a contract for a public works project at \$212,500 or less to the lowest responsible bidder, when the district is using the informal process authorized under the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act for projects of \$200,000 or less, all bids received are in excess of \$200,000, and the Board determines that the district's cost estimate was reasonable (Public Contract Code 22034)

*(cf. 3311.1 - Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures)*

**Actions Requiring a Unanimous Vote of the Board:**

1. Resolution authorizing and prescribing the terms of a lease of district property for extraction and taking of gas not associated with oil (Education Code 17510-17511)
2. Authorization of the use of day labor or force account, or waiver of the competitive bid process pursuant to Public Contract Code 20111, when the Board determines that an emergency exists requiring the repair, alteration, work, or improvement to any facility to permit the continuance of existing classes or to avoid danger to life or property, and upon approval of the County Superintendent of Schools (Public Contract Code 20113)

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD** (continued)

**Action Requiring a Unanimous Vote of the Board Members Present at the Meeting:**

1. Private sale of surplus property without advertisement in order to establish that such property is not worth more than \$2,500. Disposal of surplus property or donation to a charitable organization requires the unanimous vote of the Board members present to establish that the value of such property would not defray the cost of arranging its sale. (Education Code 17546)

*(cf. 3270 - Sale and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies)*

**ACTIONS BY THE BOARD**

**UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT LETTER**

Note: Government Code 54960 authorizes the district attorney or other interested person to file an action in court to determine the applicability of the Ralph M. Brown Act to any past Governing Board action which is not specified in Government Code 54960.1; see the accompanying board bylaw. Pursuant to Government Code 54960.2, prior to commencing such an action the district attorney or other interested person must send a cease and desist letter to the Board within nine months of the alleged violation. Within 30 days of receiving the cease and desist letter, the Board may respond by sending an unconditional commitment, substantially in the same form provided in Government Code 54960.2, to desist from repeating the past action. If the Board so responds, the district attorney or other interested person may not file an action in court. The following exhibit presents a sample unconditional commitment letter.

To: *(Name of district attorney or any interested person)*

The Board of Education of Napa Valley Unified School District has received your cease and desist letter dated *(date)* alleging that the following past action taken by the Board violates the Ralph M. Brown Act: *(Describe alleged past action as set forth in the cease and desist letter.)*

In order to avoid unnecessary litigation and without admitting any violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Board hereby unconditionally commits that it will cease, desist from, and not repeat the challenged past action described above. The Board may rescind this commitment only by a majority vote of its membership taken in open session at a regular meeting and noticed on its posted agenda as "Rescission of Brown Act Commitment." You will be provided with written notice, sent by any means or media you provide in response to this message, to whatever address(es) you specify, of any intention to consider rescinding this commitment at least 30 days before any such regular meeting. In the event that this commitment is rescinded, a notice will be delivered to you by the same means as this commitment, or by mail to an address that you have designated in writing, and you will have the right to commence legal action pursuant to Government Code 54960(a).

Sincerely,

*(Name)*

*(Title of Board President or other designee)*

**MINUTES AND RECORDINGS**

The Board of Education recognizes that maintaining accurate minutes of Board meetings helps foster public trust in Board governance and provides a record of Board actions for use by district staff and the public.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*  
*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*  
*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

The secretary of the Board shall keep minutes and record all official Board actions. The Board's minutes shall be public records and shall be made available to the public upon request. (Education Code 35145, 35163)

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*  
*(cf. 9122 - Secretary)*  
*(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)*

The minutes of Board meetings shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A notation of which Board members are present, in person or by teleconference, and whether a member is not present for part of the meeting due to late arrival and/or early departure

*(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)*  
*(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)*

2. A brief summary of the Board's discussion on each agenda topic, rather than a verbatim record of each Board member's specific points of view during the discussion
3. A summary of the public comments made on agendized items and unagendized topics
4. The specific language of each motion and the names of the Board members who made and seconded the motion
5. Preferential votes cast by student Board member(s) (Education Code 35012)

*(cf. 9150 - Student Board Members)*

6. Any action taken by the Board, and the vote or abstention on that action of each Board member present (Education Code 35145; Government Code 54953)

Upon request by a student's parent/guardian, or by the student if age 18 or older, the minutes shall not include the student's or parent/guardian's address, telephone number, date of birth, or email address, or the student's name or other directory information as defined in Education Code 49061. The request to exclude such information shall be made in writing to the secretary or clerk of the Board. (Education Code 49073.2)

*(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)*

## **MINUTES AND RECORDINGS (continued)**

The Board agenda shall include a statement of the option and process for students and parents/guardians to request that such information be excluded from the minutes.

The Superintendent or designee shall distribute a copy of the "unapproved" minutes of the previous meeting(s) with the agenda for the next regular meeting. The Board shall approve the minutes as circulated or with necessary amendments.

Upon approval by the Board, the minutes shall be signed by \_\_\_\_\_.

Official Board minutes and recordings shall be stored in a secure location and shall be retained in accordance with law.

*(cf. 3580 - District Records)*

Any minutes or recordings kept for Board meetings held in closed session shall be kept separately from the minutes or recordings of regular and special meetings. Minutes or recordings of closed sessions are not public records. (Government Code 54957.2)

*(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)*

### **Recording or Broadcasting of Meetings**

The district may tape, film, stream, or broadcast any open Board meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the Board president shall announce that a recording or broadcasting is being made at the direction of the Board and that the recording or broadcast may capture images and sounds of those attending the meeting. As practicable, the recorder or camera shall be placed in plain view of meeting participants.

Any district recording may be erased or destroyed 30 days after the meeting. Recordings made at the direction of the Board during a meeting are public records and, upon request, shall be made available for inspection by members of the public on district equipment without charge. (Government Code 54953.5)

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## MINUTES AND RECORDINGS (continued)

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

35012 *Number of members; terms; student board members*

35145 *Public meetings*

35163 *Official actions, minutes and journals*

35164 *Vote requirements*

49061 *Student records; definitions*

49073.2 *Privacy of student and parent/guardian personal information*

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

54952.2 *Meeting defined*

54953 *Meetings*

54953.5 *Audio or video recording of proceedings*

54953.6 *Broadcasting of proceedings*

54957.2 *Closed sessions; clerk; minute book*

54960 *Violations and remedies*

#### PENAL CODE

632 *Unlawful to intentionally record a confidential communication without consent*

#### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

16020-16027 *Classification and retention of records*

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Call to Order: A Blueprint for Great Board Meetings, 2015*

*The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2014*

#### WEB SITES

CSBA, Agenda Online: <http://www.agendaonline.com>

**BOARD SELF-EVALUATION**

The Board of Education shall annually conduct a self-evaluation in order to demonstrate accountability to the community and ensure that district governance effectively supports student achievement and the attainment of the district's vision and goals.

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

*(cf. 2140 - Evaluation of the Superintendent)*

The evaluation may address any area of Board responsibility, including, but not limited to, Board performance in relation to vision setting, curriculum, personnel, finance, policy development, collective bargaining, community relations, and advocacy. The evaluation may also address objectives related to Board meeting operations, relationships among Board members, relationship with the Superintendent, understanding of Board and Superintendent roles and responsibilities, communication skills, or other governance or boardsmanship skills.

*(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

The Board shall evaluate itself as a whole. Individual Board members are also expected to use the evaluation process as an opportunity to assess and set goals for their own personal performance.

Each year, the Board, with assistance from the Superintendent, shall determine an evaluation method or instrument that measures key components of board responsibility and previously identified performance objectives. Visual and/or audio recordings of a Board meeting may only be used as an evaluation tool when consent is given by all Board members.

Any discussion involving the Board's self-evaluation shall be conducted in open session.

At the request of the Board, a facilitator may be used to assist with the evaluation process. The Board may invite the Superintendent or other individual(s) with pertinent information to provide input into the evaluation process.

Following the evaluation, the Board shall set goals, define and/or refine protocols, and establish priorities and objectives for the following year's evaluation. The Board shall also develop strategies for strengthening Board performance based on identified areas of need, including, but not limited to, Board trainings such as those offered by the California School Boards Association.

*(cf. 9230 - Orientation)*

*(cf. 9240 - Board Training)*



**BOARD SELF-EVALUATION** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *Brown Act; board self-evaluations not covered*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards

Defining Governance, Issue 3: Governance Practices, Governance Brief, April 2014

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CSBA Board Self-Evaluation: <http://bse.csba.org>