

ROLE OF THE BOARD

Powers and Duties

The Governing Board's primary goal is to provide each student with an education of the highest quality in keeping with his/her capacity to learn. This goal shall be the basic factor motivating the Board's execution of its powers and duties.

(cf. 0000 – Vision)

The Board is responsible for the general control and direction of education in the district and is empowered to carry on and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. (Education Code 35160) This Board authority shall be exercised in accordance with the State and Federal constitutions, the Charter of the City of Pasadena, laws and regulations. The Board may execute any powers delegated by law to it or to the district which it governs, and shall discharge any duty imposed by law upon it or upon the district which it governs. (Education Code 35161)

The powers and duties of the Board include governance, executive and judicial functions. These relate to the Board's own operations as a governing body and to all functions of the district.

Governance Functions

To fulfill its responsibility, the Board is committed to establishing policies to govern district activities.

(cf. 9310 – Development, Distribution and Maintenance of Policies, Regulations, Bylaws)

The Board shall consider and approve or disapprove matters submitted to it by the Superintendent and the public.

The Board shall prescribe rules for its own governance which are consistent with law or with the rules prescribed by the State Board of Education. (Education Code 35010)

(cf. 9300 – Governance)

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Executive Functions

The Board is authorized by law to delegate any of its powers and duties to a district officer or employee. The Superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the Board. In accordance with Board policy, the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to carry out Board decisions and to make and carry out any decisions which it delegates. The Superintendent shall be fully responsible for the proper use of this authority.

(cf. 2210 –Discretion Regarding Board Policy)

The Board is ultimately responsible for the performance of any powers or duties delegated.

Judicial Functions

The Board believes that school employees and citizens have the right to a hearing and resolution of grievances, complaints and criticisms. In order to maintain positive personnel and public relations, the Board convened shall serve, at its discretion, as a body of appeal for grievances, complaints and criticisms in accordance with Board policies and negotiated employee agreements. If a complainant has filed a formal complaint and is dissatisfied with the compliance officer’s decision, the Board may consider the matter at a regular board meeting or special meeting. However, if the Board decides not to hear the complaint, the compliance officer’s decision is final.

(cf. 1312.1 Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 4144 –Complaints)

The Governing Board, having been elected by the community to provide leadership and citizen oversight of the district, 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.

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(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 - Recruitment and Selection)
(cf. 4211 - Recruitment and Selection)
(cf. 4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

b. Overseeing the development and adoption of policies;

(cf. 9311 - 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)

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

(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)

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(cf. 7100 - 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. 2123- Evaluation of the Superintendent)
(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)
(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)

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(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/ Supervision)

- 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. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)
(cf. 4117.3 - Personnel Reduction)
(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)
(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. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)
(cf. 0520.3 - Title I Program Improvement Districts)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
(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.

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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. 1020 - Youth Services)

(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)

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

2600-2603 – School district boundaries

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

33003 – Operation and organization; bylaws

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:

35160-35182 - Powers and duties

35230 – 35240 – Corrupt practices

35291 - Rules

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance

Professional Governance Standards, November 2000

School Board Leadership: The Role and Function of California's School Boards, 1996

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

The Key Work of School Boards, 2000

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WEB SITES

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

CSBA Governance Institute: <http://www.csba.org/gi>

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

Bylaw
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PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Pasadena, California