

# District Policy & Regulations

## BOARD OF EDUCATION COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT

BYLAWS  
0140/PAGE 1 OF 5

### MEMBERSHIP

- 0141           **Number**  
The Board of Education shall consist of seven (7) members.  
120.01 (2)
- 0142           **Election/Appointment**
- 0142.1       **Electoral Process**  
Members of the Board shall be elected annually at the spring election in April in a manner that is consistent with State law.  
  
120.06 (1), 10.68 (5) (b) Wis. Stats.
- 0142.2       **Qualifications**  
A school elector in the School District is eligible to be a Board member.  
  
6.02, 120.06 (2) Wis. Stats.
- 0142.3       **Term**  
The term of each Board member shall be three (3) years commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in April and shall continue until a successor is elected and qualified or until a vacancy occurs.  
  
120.06 (3), (4) Wis. Stats.
- 0142.4       **Oath**  
Each newly-elected Board member shall file the oath of office with the Clerk and shall take an oral oath of office administered by the Clerk or President. 120.06 (10) Wis. Stats.  
  
120.17 (10)
- 0142.5       **Vacancies**  
Board vacancies may occur for reasons outlined in State law. A vacancy shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board in accordance with State Law.  
  
17.03 et seq Wis. Stats.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

0142.6

### **Orientation**

The Board believes that the preparation of each Board member for the performance of Board duties is essential to the effective functioning of the Board. The Board shall encourage each new Board member to understand the functions of the Board, acquire knowledge of matters related to the operation of the District, and learn Board procedures.

In the interim between appointment/election and actually assuming office the new member will be invited to attend all meetings and functions of the Board, including executive sessions, and is to receive all reports and communications normally sent to Board members.

A special meeting and/or retreat involving the Superintendent and new and old Board members will be convened for the primary purpose of orienting the new member to his/her responsibilities, to the Board's method of operating, and to School District policies and problems.

The new member is to be provided with copies of all appropriate publications and aids, including the Board policy manual and publications of the State and National School Boards Associations.

The Board President and member of the Administrative staff will also confer with the new member as necessary on special problems or concerns.

120.13 (32) Wis. Statutes

0143

### **Authority**

Individual members of the Board do not possess the powers that reside in the Board of Education. The Board speaks through its minutes and not through its individual members, except the official spokesperson as outlined below. An act of the Board shall not be valid unless approved at an official meeting by a majority vote when there is a quorum present.–

Cross Ref: 9150, School Visitors

0143.1

### **Public Expression of Board Members**

The Board President functions as the official spokesperson for the Board, unless another member of the Board is so designated.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Sometimes the statements imply, or the readers (listeners) infer, that the opinions expressed or statements made by individual Board members other than those designated by the Board, are the official positions of the Board. The misunderstandings that can result from these incidents can embarrass both the member and the Board. Therefore, Board members should, when writing or speaking on school matters to the media, legislators, and other officials, make it clear that their views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board or of their colleagues on the Board.

### **0144 Operations**

#### **0144.1 Compensation**

Board members shall receive per annum compensation as established at the District annual meeting. Expenses of a Board member shall be reimbursed when incurred in the performance of his/her duties or in the performance of functions authorized by the Board and duly vouchered.

120.10(3) Wis. Stats.

120.10 (4)

120.13 (16), (32)

Cross Ref: 0175.1, School Board Conferences, Conventions and Workshops

#### **0144.2 Board Member Responsibilities**

As members of the Board of Education, Board members will strive to improve public education and to that end they will:

- A. attend all regularly schedule Board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be concerned at those meetings;
- B. recognize that they should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings;
- C. render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or specific interest groups;
- D. encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members, and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff, and all elements of the community;
- E. work with the other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the District to the Superintendent ;

# District Policy & Regulations

## BOARD OF EDUCATION COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT

- F. communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs;
- G. inform themselves about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the State and National School Boards Associations;
- H. support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
- I. avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using their Board positions for personal partisan gain;
- J. take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;
- K. remember always that their first and greatest concern must be for the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

19.59 Wis. Statutes

0144.3

### **Conflict of Interest**

Board members shall perform their official duties in a manner free from conflict of interest pursuant to State Law. To this end:

- A. no Board member shall use his/her position as a Board member to obtain financial gain for himself/herself, immediate family, or any organization with which s/he is associated;
- B. no Board member shall engage in or have a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any activity that conflicts or raises a reasonable question of conflict with his/he duties and responsibilities in the school system and as a public officer;
- C. when a member of the Board determines that the possibility of a personal interest conflict exists, s/he should, prior to the matter being considered, disclose his/her interest (such disclosure shall become a matter of record in the minutes of the Board), and thereafter shall abstain from participation in both the discussion of the matter and the vote thereon.

19.59 Wis. Statutes  
946.13

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**0144.4 Indemnification**

The Board may hold harmless, indemnify, pay, settle, or compromise a judgment against a Board member to the extent allowed under the law.

895.46 Wis. Statutes

**0145 Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment**

The Board of Education believes that sexual or other forms of offensive speech and conduct are wholly inappropriate to the harmonious relationships necessary to the operation of the District and intolerable in an environment in which students and staff members of this District function.

*(Approved 11/23/98)*

118.13, 111.32 (13), 111.36 Wis. Statutes

Cross Ref: 3362, Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment, 5517, Student Harassment

Adopted: 06/09/98

Revised: 02/28/00, 10/23/00, 01/14/01, 03/25/02, 12/08/03, 02/07/07