

CHAPTER 2.00 – SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

2.20

- I. The School Board is responsible for the organization and control of the public schools of the system and is empowered to determine the policies necessary for the effective operation and general improvement of the school system. The School Board is a public corporate entity and may take action only when the Board is meeting in official public session and a quorum is present. The School Board shall limit its action to establishing policy and to meeting the requirements prescribed by federal and state law and rules of the State Board of Education. Individual members of the School Board have authority to take official action only when sitting as a member of the School Board in public session, except when the School Board specifically authorizes the member to act. The School Board shall not be bound in any way by any action on the part of an individual Board member or an employee, except when such statement or action is in compliance with the public action of the School Board.
- II. The specific duties of the Board shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - A. To approve policies relating to the operation of the public schools;
 - B. To adopt a calendar of school events for each ensuing year, which shall be distributed to the teachers and others as deemed necessary;
 - C. To adopt the annual budget, consider and approve payrolls, and approve expenditures of funds as recommended by the Superintendent;
 - D. To monitor the financial status of the system;
 - E. To appoint principals and other employees upon the written recommendation of the Superintendent;
 - F. To determine or approve salary schedules and other personnel policies;
 - G. To consider reports of the Superintendent on the progress of the schools and advise him/her on recommended changes in educational programs;
 - H. To adopt plans for structural improvements and construction of new facilities and determine the means to finance them; and
 - I. To inform the citizens of the community and the Legislature of the needs of the schools.
- III. The duties and obligations of an individual Board member shall include, but not be limited to the following:

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- A. To attend all meetings;
 - B. To become familiar with selected federal and state school laws, State Department of Education rules and regulations, and local Board policies, rules and regulations;
 - C. To assist in establishing the highest goals and objectives for the school system which realistically can be achieved;
 - D. To vote and act in the Board meetings for the total good of the school system;
 - E. To accept the will of the majority vote and give support to the resultant policy;
 - F. To represent the Board in such a way as to promote public interest in and support for Board-related activities;
 - G. To refer complaints and inquiries to the proper school authorities and to abstain from individual counsel and action;
 - H. To recognize that candid discussions based on objective rationale are vital to the ultimate success of the school system;
 - I. To comply with statutory requirements, state and local Board policies, and regulations of duly authorized administrative agencies;
 - J. To act ethically in all matters at all times, thereby representing the school system to the best of one's ability; and
 - K. To receive no financial interest or personal benefit, either directly or indirectly, in the purchase of or contract for real or personal property or contractual service with the Board.
- IV. The Board shall maintain membership in the Alabama Association of School Boards.

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V. The Board adopts for its members the following Code of Ethics:

As a member of the local Board of Education, I will strive to improve public education, and to that end I will:

- A. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings, insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
- B. Recognize that I 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 my independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to any individual or special interest group;
- D. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members and seek systematic communication among the Board and students, staff, and all elements of the community;
- E. Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent;
- F. Communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs;
- G. Inform myself about the current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards association;
- 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 my Board position for personal or 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; and
- K. Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

**CODE OF ALABAMA
16-1-30**

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:

**CODE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA OPEN MEETINGS ACT # 2005-40
16-8-8, 16-11-9, 16-11-12, 16-11-17,
16-11-24, 16-22-6, 16-24-1, 36-25-1,
36-26-100, 41-16-50, 41-16-57**

ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT: _____

HISTORY:

**ADOPTED: Dec 16, 2008
REVISION DATE(S): _____
FORMERLY: AB ABA ABB, BBBA
FORMERLY: NEW**