

POWERS AND ETHICS

0121

**Responsibilities and Authority of the Board**

The Board is responsible for the organization and control of the public schools of the District and is empowered to determine the policies necessary for the effective operation and the general improvement of the school system. The Board is constituted by the State Constitution and Florida Statutes.

5.4(6), Article IX, State Constitution  
F.S. 1001.40, 1001.41, 1001.43

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**Board Powers**

The Board shall be a body politic and corporate, and, as such, capable of suing and being sued, contracting and being contracted with; acquiring, holding, possessing, and disposing of real and personal property; taking and holding in trust for the use and benefit of the District, any grant or devise of land and any donation or bequest of money or other personal property.

As prescribed by law, the general powers of the Board are the determination of educational policies; the adoption of such rules and regulations to supplement those prescribed by the State Board of Education as will contribute to the more orderly and efficient operation of the school system; the determination of minimum standards; and the performance of any duties that are assigned to it by law or by State Board regulations and that are found by it to be necessary for the improvement of the school system in carrying out the purposes and objectives of the Florida Constitution and Florida Statutes.

The Board shall perform all duties found in Florida Statutes and shall provide educational opportunity as required by Florida Statutes.

In pursuit of the above, the Board shall communicate and meet with Legislators as appropriate.

F.S. 1000.21, 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43

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**Member Powers**

Board members as individuals do not separately possess the powers that reside in the Board. Board members shall have authority only when acting as a Board legally in session. The Board shall not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of any individual Board member, except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific official instructions of the Board.

F.S. 1001.41, 1001.43

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**Standards for Board Member Ethics and Boardmanship**

While serving on the Board, each member shall be encouraged to uphold the following standards:

- A. Remember that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare and safety of all students attending the public schools, regardless of ability, race, creed, sex, or socio-economic status;
- B. Obey the laws of Florida and the United States and bring about desired changes through legal and ethical procedures;
- C. Listen responsively to the community, yet render all decisions based on the available facts, input received and

independent judgment rather than succumbing to the influence of individuals or special interest groups.

- D. Avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof;
- E. Refrain from using the Board position for personal or political benefit or the benefit of family members or business associates;
- F. Recognize that as an individual Board member there is not authority to speak or act for the Board;
- G. Express personal opinions but, once the Board has acted, accept the will of the majority;
- H. Focus Board action on policy making, goal setting, planning, and evaluation;
- I. Make every effort to attend all Board meetings and workshops;
- J. Respect the confidentiality of privileged information;
- K. Become informed concerning the issues to be considered at each meeting;
- L. Improve Boardmanship and leadership by studying educational issues and by participating in inservice programs and FSBA activities;
- M. Cooperate in assessing the effectiveness of the Board as a whole as well as each Board member;
- N. Encourage ongoing, systematic communications among the Board, students, staff, and the community;

- O. Work with the Superintendent and staff, neither undermining nor intruding into the areas legally associated to school administration;
- P. Support the employment of school personnel based on qualifications and performance and not as a result of influence;
- Q. Cooperate with other Board members and administrators to establish a system of regular and impartial evaluations of all staff;
- R. Encourage recognition of the achievements of students and staff and the involvement and support of business and community members; and
- S. Remember that we must provide appropriate curriculum, facilities, and motivation so all our students will be encouraged to respect and engage in learning, enabling them to achieve their greatest potential.

F.S. 1001.41, 1001.43

Effective Date: 07/01/05