

BOARD POLICY

No. 9175

9000 INTERNAL BOARD OPERATIONS AND BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD

9175 Board Member Professional Development

The school board in modern America faces a difficult set of challenges. It must fashion a quality educational program to prepare children for an unpredictable tomorrow. It must decide complex issues of policy and principle. It must oversee the prudent management of our community's school facility. It is right and proper for a school board to expect public support for its efforts to enlarge the horizons and abilities of its members.

The Board of Education places a high priority on the importance of a planned and continuing program of in-service education for its members. The central purpose of the program is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of public school governance in our community. The Board shall plan specific in-service activities designed to assist Board members in their efforts to improve their skills as members of the policy-making body; to expand their knowledge about trends, issues, and new ideas affecting the continued welfare of the local schools; and to deepen their insights into the nature of leadership in a modern democratic society.

Funds may/shall be budgeted annually to support the program. The Board, as a whole, shall retain the authority to approve or disapprove the participation of members in planned activities. The public shall be kept informed about the Board's continuing in-service education and about the program's anticipated short and long range benefits to our schools.

The Board regards the following as kinds of activities and services appropriate for implementing this policy:

1. Participation in school board conferences, workshops and conventions held by CABA and NSBA.
2. District-sponsored training sessions for Board members.
3. Subscriptions to publications addressed to the concerns of Board members.

In order to control the investment of time and funds necessary to implement this policy, the Board establishes these principles and procedures for its guidelines:

1. The Superintendent shall maintain a calendar of school board conferences, conventions and workshops. The Board will periodically decide which meetings appear to be most promising in terms of producing benefits to the District.
2. Funds for participation at such meetings will be budgeted on an annual basis. When funds are limited, the Board will designate which of its members would be the most appropriate to participate at a given meeting.
3. Board members will be reimbursed for their travel expenses.
4. When a convention, conference or workshop is not attended by the full Board, those who do participate will be requested to share information, recommendations and materials acquired at the meeting.
5. To provide such development, the Board shall annually provide membership in the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

Board members are encouraged to attend workshops presented by CABA and NSBA.

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Professional journals and books in school professional libraries shall be made available to all Board members.

(cf. 1100 – Communication with the Public)
(cf. 4133 – Travel Reimbursement)

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