

BOARD OF EDUCATION**Powers and Duties of the School Board**

The powers and duties of the School Board are numerated in the School Code. The School Board also functions within the framework of laws, court decisions, standards and directives of the State Board of Education and similar mandates from the state and national levels of government.

The powers and duties of the School Board include:

1. Organizing the Board after each consolidated election by electing officers and establishing its regular meeting schedule and, thereafter, taking action during lawfully called meetings to faithfully fulfill the Board's responsibilities in accordance with State and federal law.
2. Formulation, adoption, and modification of District policies, at its sole discretion, subject only to mandatory collective bargaining agreements, and state and federal law;
3. Employing a Superintendent and other personnel, making employment decisions, and dismissing personnel including determining whether an employee has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/, and establishing an equal employment opportunity policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination.
4. Directing, through policy, the Superintendent in their charge of the District's administration;
5. Approving the annual budget, tax levies, major expenditures, payment of obligations, annual audit, and other aspects of the District's financial operations, and making available a statement of financial affairs as provided in State law;
6. Indemnifying, protecting, and insuring against any loss or liability of the School District, Board members, employees, and agents as provided or authorized by State law;
7. Entering contracts using the public bidding procedure when required;
8. Providing, constructing, controlling, and maintaining adequate physical facilities; making school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters; and establishing a resource conservation policy;
9. Establishing an equal educational opportunities policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination;
10. Approval of curriculum, textbooks, and educational services to be provided;
11. Evaluation the educational program and approving School Improvement and District Improvement Plans;
12. Presenting the District report card and School report card(s) to parents/guardians and the community;
13. Establishment and support of student behavior policies designed to maintain an environment conducive to learning, including hearing individual student suspension or expulsion cases brought before it;
14. Establishing attendance units within the District and assigning students to the schools;
15. Establishing the school year;
16. Requiring a moment of silence to recognize veterans during any school event held at a District school on November 11;
17. Providing student transportation services pursuant to State law;
18. Entering into joint agreements with other Boards to establish cooperative educational programs or provide educational facilities;
19. Complying with requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Specifically, each individual School Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed School Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in the act, direct or cause the School Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse;

20. Communication of the schools' activities and operations to the community and representing the needs and desires of the community in education matters;
21. Notifying the State Superintendent of Education promptly and in writing of the name of a licensed teacher who was convicted of a felony, along with the conviction and the name and location of the court where the conviction occurred.
22. Notifying the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) of the State of Ill. Board of Trustees promptly and in writing when it learns that a teacher as defined in the Illinois Pension Code was convicted of a felony, along with the name and location of the court where the conviction occurred, and the case number assigned by that court to the conviction.
23. Maintaining oversight of the District's facilities.
24. Communicating the schools' activities and operations to the community and representing the needs and desires of the community in educational matters

Official decisions of the School Board can be reached only at duly constituted School Board meetings. Individual School Board members or groups of School Board members do not have independent authority to speak for the Board unless authorized to do so.

Rules adopted by the School Board will be filed in the administrative office of the District, posted on the District website, and made available to the public for inspection during regular office hours.

Indemnification

To the extent allowed by law, the Board shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless School Board members, employees, volunteer personnel (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 10-22.34a and 10-22.34b), mentors of certified staff (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 2-3.53b, and 105 ILCS 5/21A-5 et seq.), and student teachers who, in the course of discharging their official duties imposed or authorized by law, are sued as parties in a legal proceeding. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as obligating the Board to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless any person who engages in criminal activity, official misconduct, fraud, intentional or willful and wanton misconduct, or acts beyond the authority properly vested in the individual.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10, 5/17-1, 5/21B-85 and 5/27-1.
115 ILCS 5/, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.
325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

APPROVED: MAY 12, 2020
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