

Board Authority

The Board has final authority to determine and interpret the policies that govern the schools and, subject to the mandates and limits imposed by state and federal authorities, has complete and full control of the District. Board action shall be taken only in meetings that comply with the Open Meetings Act. [See BE(LEGAL)]

**Transacting
Business**

When a proposal is presented to the Board, the Board shall hold a discussion and reach a decision. Although there may be dissenting votes, which are a matter of public record, each Board decision shall be an action by the whole Board binding upon each member.

**Delegation of
Authority to the
Superintendent
Regarding Certain
Special Education
Matters**

Following a recommendation and approval from the general counsel or deputy general counsel, the Superintendent shall be authorized to approve and execute, without Board approval, settlement agreements related to Special Education matters, including, e.g., due process hearings, Texas Education Agency complaints, and mediations, that total an amount not to exceed \$25,000. This shall include, but not be limited to, costs paid for educational funds for the benefit of a student; independent educational evaluations; training provided by an external professional to parents, students, or district employees; services provided by private third-party providers; reimbursements for educational services; transportation costs; and attorneys' fees. It shall not include the value of services provided by existing internal District staff.

Legal Services shall provide a monthly report to the Board containing information regarding settlement agreements executed under this provision.

**Individual Authority
for Committing the
Board**

Board members as individuals shall not exercise authority over the District, its property, or its employees. Except for appropriate duties and functions of the Board President, an individual member may act on behalf of the Board only with the express authorization of the Board. Without such authorization, no individual member may commit the Board on any issue. [See BDAA]

**Individual Access to
Information**

An individual Board member, acting in an official capacity, meaning all duties of office including administrative decisions or actions, shall have the right to seek information pertaining to District fiscal affairs, business transactions, governance, and personnel matters, including information that properly may be withheld from members of the public in accordance with the Public Information Chapter of the Government Code. [See GBA]

Limitations

If a Board member is not acting in an official capacity, the Board member has no greater right to District records than a member of the public.

An individual Board member shall not have access to confidential student records unless the member is acting in an official capacity and has a legitimate educational interest in the records in accordance with policy FL.

A Board member who is denied access to a record under this provision may ask the Board to determine whether the record should be provided or may file a request under the Public Information Act. [See GBAA]

Requests for
Records

An individual Board member shall seek access to records or request copies of records from the Superintendent or other designated custodian of records, who shall respond within the time frames required by law. When a custodian of records other than the Superintendent provides access to records or copies of records to an individual Board member, the provider shall inform the Superintendent of the records provided.

In accordance with law, the District shall track and report any requests under this provision including the cost of responding to one or more requests by any individual Board member for 200 or more pages of material in a 90-day period.

Requests for
Reports

No individual member shall direct or require District employees to prepare reports derived from an analysis of information in existing District records or to create a new record compiled from information in existing District records. Directives to the Superintendent regarding the preparation of reports shall be by:

1. Board action [see also BE(LOCAL)];
2. Request of an individual Board member made in a Board meeting after discussion by the Board as a whole; or
3. Written request of an individual Board member.

Confidentiality

At the time a Board member is provided access to records or reports that are confidential or otherwise not subject to public disclosure [see GBA], the Superintendent or other District employee shall advise the Board member of the responsibility to comply with confidentiality requirements and the District's information security controls.

**Referring
Complaints**

If employees, parents, students, or other members of the public bring concerns or complaints to an individual Board member, the member shall refer them to the Superintendent or designee who shall proceed according to the applicable complaint policy. [See (LOCAL) policies at DGBA, FNG, and GF]

When the concern or complaint directly pertains to the Board's own actions or policy, for which there is no administrative remedy, the Board member may request that the issue be placed on the agenda.

**Complaint Against a
Board Member**

A person affected by any activity of a Board member may file a complaint with the Board President, or in the case of a complaint involving the Board President, with the Board First Vice President.

The Board President or Board First Vice President shall act to resolve the complaint and may utilize the services of an experienced, trained mediator.

The individual who initiated the complaint shall be advised of the resolution of the complaint.

**Visits to District
Facilities**

A Board member shall adhere to any posted requirements for visitors to first report to the main office of a District facility, including a school campus. Visits during the school or business day shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or District operations. [See also GKC]

Subsequent Contract

Only the Board can rescind a proposed nonrenewal and issue a subsequent contract to the impacted employee. Any issuance of a contract without Board approval is void.