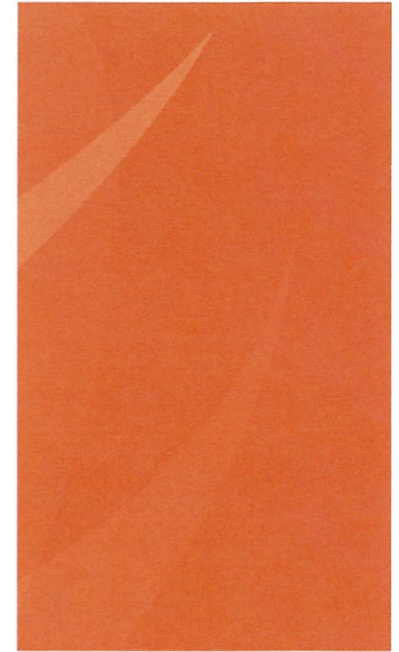


July 18, 2023



Board Bylaw Review

Galion City School District Board of Education

Presented by: Lisa M. Burleson,
Esq.



Board Bylaw & OSBA Code of Ethics for Board Members

Board Bylaw 0122.1: Member Powers

Bylaw 0122.1 – Member Powers

- As individuals, Board members do not separately possess powers that reside in the Board.
- Examples of Board powers:
 - Judicial
 - Legislative

Board Bylaw 0123: Code of Ethics

Bylaw 0123 – Code of Ethics

- Contains the same provisions as the OSBA Code of Ethics for Board Members.
- OSBA Code of Ethics for Board Members was adopted by the OSBA Delegate Assembly on November 11, 1991.

Key Provisions – Code of Ethics

- First and greatest concern must be educational welfare of all students attending public schools.
- Obey laws of Ohio and United States.
- Respect confidentiality of privileged information.

Key Provisions – Code of Ethics

- Recognize individual board member has no authority to speak or act for the board.
- Work with other members to establish effective board policies.
- Delegate authority for administration of schools to superintendent and staff.

Key Provisions – Code of Ethics

- Avoid conflicts of interest or appearance thereof.
- Refrain from using board position for benefit of self, family members or business associates.

Ohio Ethics Commission: Guidance for Board Members

Dos – Ohio Ethics Commission

- Avoid actions that give appearance of impropriety.
- Abstain from issues where relationship exists with entity seeking public funds from board.
- Withdraw from all issues where your business or business of family is implicated in those doing business with the board.

Don'ts – Ohio Ethics Commission

- Solicit or accept anything of value from anyone doing business with board.
- Use board position to obtain financial gain or benefit for self, family member, or business associate.
- Vote/authorize/use position to secure contract with self, family member or business associate

Don'ts – Ohio Ethics Commission

- Accept compensation for performance of board duties (other than compensation as board member).
- Use or disclose confidential information protected by law.
- Use or authorize use of title, the board, or the board's name in a manner that suggests impropriety, favoritism, or bias by the board or any board official or employee.

Board Bylaw 0148.0: Board-Staff Communications

Key Provisions – Board-Staff Communications

- Open channels of communication with baseline through Superintendent.
- 3 types of communication addressed in Bylaw:
 - Staff to Board
 - Board to Staff
 - Social Interactions

Key Provisions – Board-Staff Communications

- STAFF TO BOARD:
 - Through superintendent; superintendent forwards to board.
 - Exceptions: First Amendment right of free speech, right of appeal, or right to address board on matters through procedures.
- BOARD TO STAFF:
 - Officially and generally through superintendent who will keep staff informed of board concerns and actions.
- SOCIAL INTERACTIONS:
 - No discussion of personalities, personnel grievances, or other complaints will occur between board members and staff.

Board Policy 1210 – Board-Superintendent Relationship

Key Provisions – Board-Superintendent Relationship

- Board establishes policies; Superintendent administers policies.
- Superintendent given latitude to determine best method of implementing Board policies, with Board retaining oversight supervision.
- Superintendent is primary professional advisor to Board.

Questions



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