

Internal Operations

**Binghamton City School District**

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## Internal Operations

**SUBJECT: ORIENTING AND TRAINING NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The election to the office of School Board Member carries great responsibilities to the community and children of the Binghamton City School District. It is the belief of the Board of Education that participation in a program of orientation would be helpful to any member elected to the Board of Education for a first term. Therefore, the following program of orientation will be available:

- a) Each School Board Member elected to a first term shall be encouraged to attend the annual NYS School Board Association workshop for new board members. The new members shall also be encouraged to attend any local programs of orientation for new School Board members.
- b) Each School Board Member elected to a first term shall be provided an opportunity to an orientation meeting with the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent to tour the District buildings and discuss the following:
  1. Expectations of Board Members;
  2. Organization of the Board and District;
  3. Laws, regulations, policies, goals, rules, regulations and procedures of the Board and District.
- c) Each School Board Member elected or appointed to a first term shall be provided a portfolio of information prepared by the Superintendent. Said portfolio shall contain, but not be limited to, a copy of the following documents:
  1. Board of Education books containing the Board of Education's philosophy, goals, models, plans and policies;
  2. School Law Book by NYSSBA (most recent edition);
  3. Superintendent's current contract with the Board of Education;
  4. All negotiated contracts;
  5. Staff directory (showing names, address and positions).

**Board Member Training**

Within the first year of election or appointment, each Board member must complete a minimum of six hours of training on the financial oversight, accountability and fiduciary responsibilities of a school board member and a training course acquainting him/her with the powers, functions and duties

(Continued)

**SUBJECT: ORIENTING AND TRAINING NEW BOARD MEMBERS (Cont'd.)**

of Boards of Education, as well as the powers and duties of other governing and administrative authorities affecting public education. Re-elected Board members shall not be required to repeat this training. The curriculum and provider of this training must be approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Upon completing the required training, the Board member shall file with the District Clerk a certificate of completion issued by the provider of the training. Actual and necessary expenses incurred by a Board member in complying with these requirements are a lawful charge to the District.

## Internal Operations

**SUBJECT: COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

The Board and/or the President of the Board may at its discretion establish committees for the purpose of undertaking a specific task in connection with Board activity. These committees, however, cannot make legal decisions for the entire Board.

At the request of the Board, the President shall appoint temporary committees consisting of less than a quorum of the full membership for special purposes. These committees shall be discharged on the completion of their assignment. The President of the Board shall be an ex-officio member of such committees.

The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary from time to time to authorize advisory committees for the purpose of enlisting opinions and counsel of the general public. Such committees shall be appointed by the Board of Education. The Board has the right to accept, reject or modify all or any part of a committee recommendation.

**Audit Committee**

The Board has established an audit committee to oversee the annual audit of the District, and report on its findings to the Board.

**Visitation Committees**

The Board of Education shall appoint one or more committees to visit every school or department at least once annually and report on their conditions at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Education Law Sections 1708, 2116-c and 4601

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #5572 -- [Audit Committee](#)

Adopted: 7/6/16

## Internal Operations

**SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATIONS**

The School District shall be a member of the New York State Association of Small City School Districts and the New York State School Boards Associations. Additionally, the Board may maintain membership and participate cooperatively in other associations.

Education Law Section 1618  
Comptroller's Opinion 81-255

Adopted: 7/6/16

## Internal Operations

**SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE BY BOARD MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES,  
CONVENTIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

The Board believes that continuing in-service training and development are important for its members. The Board, therefore, encourages the participation of all members at appropriate school board conferences, conventions and workshops which are believed to be of benefit to the School District. However, in order to control both the investment of time and funds necessary to implement this policy, the Board establishes the following guidelines:

- a) A calendar of school board conferences, conventions and workshops shall be maintained by the Board Clerk. The Board will periodically decide which meetings appear to be most likely to produce direct and indirect benefits to the School District. At least annually, the Board will identify those new ideas or procedures and/or cost benefits that can be ascribed to participation at such meetings.
- b) Funds for participation at such conferences, conventions, workshops and the like will be budgeted for on an annual basis. When funds are limited, the Board will designate which members are to participate at a given meeting.
- c) Reimbursement to Board members for all actual and necessary registration fees, expenses of travel, meals and lodging, and all necessary tuition fees incurred in connection with attendance at conferences and the like will be in accordance with established regulations for expense reimbursement.
- d) When a conference, convention 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.

The authorization for Board members to attend a conference, convention, workshop and the like shall be by Board resolution adopted prior to such attendance. However, the Board, in its discretion, may delegate the power to authorize attendance at such conferences to the President of the Board of Education.

Where authorization has been delegated to the President of the Board, no expense or claim form shall be paid unless a travel order or similar document signed by the President is attached to such form, authorizing the claimant to attend the conference.

Education Law Section 2118  
General Municipal Law Sections 77-b and 77-c

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #5323 -- Reimbursement for Meals/Refreshments  
#6161 -- Conference/Travel Expense Reimbursement

Adopted: 7/6/16

## Internal Operations

**SUBJECT: COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES**

No member of the Board may receive any compensation for his/her services unless he/she shall also serve as District Clerk and be paid as Clerk. All members of the Board of Education may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in representing the District. All bills or claims for reimbursement must be itemized in reasonable detail.

**Conference Travel for Newly Elected Board Members**

In accordance with General Municipal Law, the Board, by a majority vote, may authorize a newly elected Board member whose term of office has not yet commenced to attend a conference. Such conference travel shall be for official District business and shall be made utilizing a cost-effective and reasonable method of travel.

Authorization must be by resolution adopted prior to such attendance and duly entered in the minutes. However, the Board may delegate the power to authorize such attendance at a conference to the Board President or Board Vice President.

Education Law Section 2118  
General Municipal Law Sections 77-b and 77-b(2)

Adopted: 7/6/16

## Internal Operations

**SUBJECT: BOARD SELF-EVALUATION**

The Board shall review the effectiveness of its internal operations at least once annually and will formulate a plan for improving its performance.

The Superintendent and others who work regularly with the Board may be asked to participate in this review and to suggest ways by which the Board can improve its functioning as a legislative body.

Adopted: 7/6/16