

GOVERNANCE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

BG 2.04

BOARD MEMBERS' AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

(1) While discharging their responsibilities through official action of the Board as a whole, board members are considered state officers with school-district jurisdiction over the execution of the state's school laws.

(2) Although the Board is a quasi-corporation composed of its members, those members, individually or collectively, may exercise their authority over the affairs of the school system only by vote at a legally convened meeting of the Board. This is in accordance with numerous court decisions that have stated that, even though school boards are continuing bodies, they exist only when in formal session.

(3) An individual board member has no legal right or power to act for the Board on his/her own, except when performing duties previously, expressly, and specifically authorized by the Board.

(4) Board members should respect the Board's commitment to work through its chief executive officers by requesting desired information about the schools directly from such officers; by referring suggestions for new district policies to such officers for their professional advice; by refusing to entertain any complaint until after its executive officers have had an opportunity to fully investigate and respond; by refraining from making recommendations with respect to appointment and promotions of employees; and by wholeheartedly supporting Board-approved actions of the executive officers.

(5) Individual board members are free to express their personal opinions to other legislative bodies, but in doing so should clearly delineate when they speak for themselves and when they represent the Board.

(6) Board members are free to contact any MPS employee for information that will help in carrying out the board member's responsibilities. Additionally, any employee may contact a board member to offer information that the employee reasonably believes would aid the board member in his/her responsibilities. In all such contact, the board member shall be cognizant of the need to refrain from interfering with an employee's job responsibilities or the chain of command. This policy, however, shall not be taken as permission for employees to harass board members.

(7) No MPS employee shall suffer adverse employment consequences, retaliation, or harassment for contacting a board member to offer information that the employee reasonably believes would assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities.

History: Adopted 3-6-57; Updated 1994; Revised 4-20-95, 6-26-96, 9-29-99, 12-16-10, 10-29-15, 11-18-21

Legal Ref.: W.S. 19.45; 119.04, 119.16, 119.18,

Cross Ref. Bd. Gov. Policy 2.03 Board Powers and Duties
3.01 Code of Ethics — Board of School Directors

Monitoring: Internal report by Board as a part of its annual self-assessment.

Frequency: Annually in July.

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