

Bylaws of the Board

Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff, Students

Board-Staff Communications

The Stafford Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain open communication between itself and the staff. Essentially, communications with staff deal with three general areas -- administration, policy and philosophy. The Board recognizes that administrative matters must be dealt with through its chief administrator. Hence, the basic line of communication for administrative matters shall be through the Superintendent.

1. Staff Communications to the Board

All formal reports to the Board or any Board committee from administrators, supervisors, teachers or other staff members shall be submitted through the Superintendent. This necessary procedure shall not be construed as denying the right of any employee to appeal to the Board from administrative decisions on important matters, provided that the Superintendent shall have been notified of the forthcoming appeal and that it is processed in accordance with the Board's policy on complaints and grievances. (cf. [4135.4](#) and 4234.4 re Complaints/Grievances)

Staff members are also reminded that Board meetings are public meetings. As such, they provide an excellent opportunity to observe and participate first hand in the Board's deliberations on problems of staff concern.

2. Board Communication to Staff

All official communications, policies and directives of staff interest and concern will be communicated to staff members through the Superintendent, and the Superintendent will employ all such media as appropriate to keep staff fully informed of the Board's problems, concerns and actions. (cf. [9020](#) - Public Statements)

3. Visits to Schools

Individual Board members interested in visiting schools or classrooms will make arrangements for visitations through the administrators of the various schools. Such visits shall be regarded as informal expressions of interest in school affairs and not as "inspections" or visits for supervisory or administrative purposes. Official visits by Board members will be planned and conducted only through the Superintendent's office with notification to appropriate building administrators and other supervisors.

4. Social Interaction

Staff and Board members share an interest in the schools and in education generally. When they meet at social affairs and other functions, they may informally discuss such matters as educational trends, issues and innovations. Individual Board members have no special authority excepting when they are convened at a legal meeting of the Board or vested with special authority by Board action. Board of Education members are expected to avoid discussion of:

A. Matters that were, are, or have the potential of becoming, the subject of an executive session;

B. Information and data contained in personnel records protected by the privacy act;

C. Contested issues that may require final resolution by the Board.

(cf. 2220 - Representative and Deliberative Groups re staff involvement in decision making)

(cf. 5145 - Civil and Legal rights & Responsibilities)

(cf. [9133](#) - Special/Advisory Committee re staff advisory committee and student advisory committee)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: December 7, 1998

Bylaw revised: May 18, 2009