

0000.02 INTRODUCTION (M) Bylaws, Policies & Regulations

Definitions

The following terms used in these bylaws, policies, and regulations shall have the meanings set forth below unless the context requires a different meaning or a different definition is supplied:

“Board” means the Board of Education of the Lafayette Township School District. Any responsibilities assigned to the Board of Education in statute, administrative code, policy, or regulation may be delegated by the Board of Education to the Superintendent of Schools who may designee such responsibilities accordingly.

“Bylaw” means a rule of the Board for its own operation.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Chief Executive Officer of this school district, whose title in this district is Superintendent.

“Collective Bargaining”, “Negotiated Agreement”, or “Collective Bargaining Agreement” means a contract collectively negotiated by the Board of Education and a recognized bargaining unit.

“Commissioner” means the New Jersey State Commissioner of Education.

“Core Curriculum Content Standards” means the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

“County Superintendent” means the Executive County Superintendent of Schools designated by the Department of Education for this school district.

“Day” means a calendar day.

“Division of Youth and Family Services” or “DYFS” means the New Jersey Department of Children and Families – Division of Child Protection and Permanency or DCP&P.

“Executive County Superintendent” means the “County Superintendent designated by the Department of Education for this school district.”

“Full Board” means the authorized number of voting members of the Board of Education.

“Meeting” means a gathering that is attended by or open to all of the members of the Board of Education, held with the intent on the part of the Board members present to discuss or act as a unit on the specific public business of the Board of Education.



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“New Jersey Student Learning Standards” or “NJSLS” means standards adopted by the State Board of Education on May 1, 1996, and as thereafter revised by the State Board, and the Common Core State Standards adopted by the State Board on June 16, 2010, and as thereafter revised by the State Board, that describe the knowledge and skills all New Jersey students are expected to acquire by benchmark grades in the following areas: English language arts; mathematics; science; social studies; visual and performing arts; comprehensive health and physical education; world languages; technology; and 21st century life and careers. The standards are established for the provision of a thorough and efficient education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46 and as a basis for the evaluation of school districts in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30.

“Parent” means the natural parent(s), adoptive parent(s), legal guardian(s), foster parent(s), or parent surrogate(s) of a student. Where parents are separated or divorced, “parent” means the person or agency who has legal custody of the student, as well as the natural or adoptive parent(s) of the student provided such parental rights have not been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

“Policy” means a Statement, formally adopted by the Board of Education, in which the Board recognizes the mandates and constraints of law, establishes practices and standards binding on staff members and students, and gives direction to the Superintendent.

“President” means the President of the Board of Education.

“Principal” means the administrator in charge of a school building or facility; except where prohibited by law, “Principal or designee” means the qualified person duly delegated by the Principal to discharge a particular duty in place of the Principal.

“Professional employee” means an employee who holds a position for which a certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is required.

“Pupil” means a student enrolled in a school in this district.

“Regulation” means a Statement developed and promulgated by the Superintendent that details the specific operations by which Board policy or a legal mandate is implemented.

“Secretary” means the Secretary of the Board of Education.

“Student” means a pupil enrolled in a school in this district.



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“Superintendent” means the Chief School Administrator of this school district; except where prohibited by law, “Superintendent or designee” means the qualified person duly delegated by the Superintendent to discharge a particular duty in place of the Superintendent.

“Support staff member” means an employee who holds a position for which no certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is required.

“Teaching staff member” means an employee who holds a position for which a certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is required.

“Treasurer” means the Treasurer of School Moneys for this school district.

Construction

The following rules of construction apply to these bylaws, policies and regulations:

1. Wherever possible, language shall be given its clear and ordinary interpretation;
2. Language shall be construed to have a meaning that complies with law;
3. In the event bylaws, policies and regulations conflict with one another, the later adopted bylaw, policy or regulation shall take precedence over the earlier, and the more specific bylaw, policy or regulation shall take precedence over the more general;
4. Except as otherwise provided by the context, the auxiliary verbs “shall,” “will,” and “must” indicate a mandated action, and the auxiliary verb “may” indicates an action that is permitted but is not mandated.

Effectuation

Except as may otherwise be expressly provided, a bylaw, policy or regulation will become effective on the date it is adopted and a revised bylaw, policy or regulation will become effective on the date it is revised.

Citations

Bylaws, policies and regulations may contain citations to the following codifications of State and Federal laws and regulations:

1. United States Code – U.S.C.



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2. United States Regulations – Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.)

3. New Jersey Statutes

N.J.S.A. 2C Code of Criminal Justice

N.J.S.A. 9 Children-Juvenile and Domestic Relations

N.J.S.A. 10 Civil Rights

N.J.S.A. 11 Civil Service

N.J.S.A. 17 Corporations and Institutions for Finance and Insurance

N.J.S.A. 18A Education

N.J.S.A. 19 Elections

N.J.S.A. 24 Food and Drug

N.J.S.A. 26 Health and Vital Statistics

N.J.S.A. 27 Highways

N.J.S.A. 30 Institutions and Agencies

N.J.S.A. 34 Labor and Worker's Compensation

N.J.S.A. 36 Legal Holidays

N.J.S.A. 39 Motor Vehicles and Traffic Regulation

N.J.S.A. 41 Oaths and Affidavits

N.J.S.A. 45 Professions and Affidavits

N.J.S.A. 47 Public Records

N.J.S.A. 52 State Government, Departments, and Officers

N.J.S.A. 53 State Police

N.J.S.A. 54 Taxation

N.J.S.A. 59 Tort Claims

4. New Jersey Administrative Code

N.J.A.C. 1 Administrative Law

N.J.A.C. 6 & 6A Education

N.J.A.C. 8 Health

N.J.A.C. 10 Human Services

N.J.A.C. 13 Law and Public Safety

N.J.A.C. 17 Treasury-General

Severability

If any part of this manual is made invalid by judicial decision or legislative or administrative enactment, all other parts shall remain in full effect unless and until they are amended or



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repealed by the Board of Education or until regulations issued by the Superintendent are amended.

Enactment

The official record of the adoption, issuance, amendment, or repeal of the bylaws, policies and regulations of this district shall be the minutes of meetings of the Board of Education. Such alterations shall be duly entered in this manual; a master copy of the bylaw, policy and regulation manual shall be maintained by the Superintendent and shall be the manual to which all others may be compared for accuracy.

Adopted: July 18, 2017



Promulgation and Distribution

The manual of bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be maintained. A copy of the manual of bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be available and accessible to each Board member, the Superintendent, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the Board Attorney, each Building Principal, and other individuals designated by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall institute a plan for the orderly promulgation of policies to staff members who are affected by them and shall provide staff members with access to an up-to-date manual of Board bylaws, ~~and~~ policies, and regulations.

The manual of bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be considered a public record open to inspection in the office of the Superintendent. The manual retained by the Superintendent shall be considered the master copy of the manual.

Consideration of Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations

Bylaws, policies, and regulations will be considered for adoption by the Board in accordance with the following procedure:

1. A recommendation for a new or revised bylaw, ~~or~~ policy, or regulation shall be recommended to the Board and/or Superintendent;
2. A recommendation for a new or revised bylaw, policy, or regulation may be referred, at the discretion of the Board President and as appropriate to the subject, to the Superintendent, a Board committee, or a public advisory committee for study and formulation of a recommendation to the Board. Any study of a new or revised recommended bylaw, policy, or regulation will consider whether the matter is adequately addressed in existing Board bylaw, policy, or regulation;
3. If a recommendation for a new or revised bylaw, policy, or regulation results from referral for study, a proposed draft will be referred to the Superintendent and at the discretion of the Board President and as appropriate to the subject, to a Board committee.



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4. All proposed new and revised bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be submitted to the Superintendent. The Superintendent or designee will review all new and revised draft bylaws, policies, and regulations prior to the Board receiving a draft of new or revised bylaws, policies, or regulations for Board consideration;

5. The proposed draft, bylaw, policy, or regulation approved by the Board on first reading, will be submitted for adoption at a succeeding meeting of the Board. Revisions ~~Changes~~ in the draft may be made at any meeting prior to adoption by a simple majority vote of the Board. A revision at any succeeding meeting that alters the substantive meaning of the draft will constitute a new first reading, and the draft must be presented for adoption at a succeeding Board meeting. A change that is merely editorial may be followed by a vote to adopt the new or revised bylaw, ~~or~~ policy, or regulation on second reading.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: January 1989

Revised: 1/5/16

Revised: 11/11/20

Revised: 9/8/2021



0141 BOARD MEMBER NUMBER AND TERM

The Board of Education shall consist of nine members.

The term of a Board member shall be three years.

The term of a Board member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be from the member's appointment to the organizational meeting following the next annual election. Any vacancy for the remainder of the term shall be filled at the next annual school election, except that

1. A Board member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring within sixty days immediately preceding an annual election occurring in April, to fill a term extending beyond the next election, shall serve until the organizational meeting following the second annual election next succeeding the occurrence of the vacancy; or
2. A Board member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring after the third Monday in July for an annual election occurring in November, to fill a term extending beyond the next election, shall serve until the organizational meeting following the second annual election next succeeding the occurrence of the vacancy.

Any vacancy for the remainder of a term shall be filled at the annual election or the second annual election next succeeding the occurrence of a vacancy, as the case may be.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-6; 18A:12-9; 18A:12-11; 18A:12-15

N.J.S.A. 18A:13-8 et seq. [**regional districts**]

N.J.S.A. 18A:54-16 et seq. [**vocational districts**]



0169.02 BOARD MEMBER USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

In accordance with the School Ethics Act - N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq., Board of Education members must avoid conduct which is in violation of the public trust or which creates a justifiable impression among the public that such trust is being violated. To avoid conduct that may be in violation or perceived to be in violation of the School Ethics Act, the Board of Education adopts this Policy to provide guidance to Board members in their use of social networks.

For the purposes of this Policy, “social network(s)” shall include, but not be limited to: Internet blogs, electronic bulletin boards, emails, social networking websites, text messages, or any other online platform where people may post or communicate interests, opinions, or any other information that may be viewed by others with or without permission from the person making such post or re-publishing such post. “Social networks” also means an Internet-based service that allows individuals to: construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system created by the service; create a list of other users with whom they share a connection within the system; and view and navigate their list of connections and those made by others within the system.

For the purposes of this Policy, “use of a social network” shall include, but not be limited to: posting to a social network, reposting another person’s post to a social network, messaging, or any other publication of material on a social network.

Nothing in this Policy prevents a Board of Education member from using a social network. However, a Board member must avoid conduct on a social network that would violate the School Ethics Act – N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq., which includes the Code of Ethics for Board Members. Board members should be advised communications, publications, photographs, and any other information posted by the Board member or reposted by the Board member on a social network could violate the School Ethics Act and be cause for sanctions in accordance with the law.

While this Policy respects the right of Board members to use social networks, Board members shall recognize they are held to a higher standard than the general public with



regard to standards of conduct and ethics. A Board member's use of social networks shall not damage the reputation of the school district, employees, students, or their families. Board members who use social networks shall ensure their conduct is appropriate for a Board of Education member. Board members should exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior, understanding what is private in the digital world often has the possibility of becoming public, even without their knowledge or consent.

Board members should carefully review the privacy settings on social networks they use and exercise care and good judgment when posting content and information. When using social networks, Board members are advised to:

1. Not post anything that would violate any of the district's policies for Board members;
2. Uphold the district's value of respect for any individual(s) and avoid making defamatory statements about the Board of Education, the school district, employees, students, or their families;
3. Not disclose any confidential information about the school district or confidential information obtained as a result of being a Board member, about any individual(s) or organization, including students and/or their families;
4. Not use or refer to their Board of Education title or position when soliciting for a business organization that he or she or any immediate family member has an interest in, as well as posting or referencing any confidential information regarding the Board of Education or the school district obtained through their Board membership, unless authorized by law;
5. Refrain from having communications through social networks with other Board members regarding any Board of Education business to avoid any potential violation of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act;



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6. Not respond to any postings regarding Board of Education or school district business or respond to any question or inquiry posted to the Board member or posted on any social network regarding Board of Education or school district business and shall refer any such questions or inquiries to the Superintendent of Schools to address, as appropriate; or
7. Not post any information on a social network determined by the New Jersey School Ethics Commission to be a violation of the New Jersey School Ethics Act.

A Board member shall comply with all Board policies regarding acceptable use of computers and computer networks whenever a Board member is using a Board of Education electronic device.

If the Board or Superintendent believes a Board member's activity on any social network may violate the Board's policies or the New Jersey School Ethics Act, the Board or Superintendent may request the Board member cease such activity.

This Policy has been developed and adopted by this Board to provide guidance and direction to a Board member to avoid actual and/or a perceived appearance of inappropriate conduct or conduct prohibited by the School Ethics Act while using social networks.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

Adopted: 11/14/18

