

BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

Members of the Board of Education have legal authority for the conduct of the District schools only when acting as a body, by majority vote, in a properly convened session.

Since the Board is a corporate body, authority lies with the Board as a whole and, therefore, Board members acting as individuals have no authority over school affairs or school personnel. Individual members or standing committees do not have the authority to act or speak on behalf of the Board, unless the Board, through adopted policy or by majority vote, has delegated this authority to the individual member or committee. Reports of special committees and reports of appointed representatives shall be subject to the approval of the entire Board.

Members of the Board are free to speak as individuals on issues related to school affairs, but when doing so are expected to communicate clearly that any such expression represents their own individual view and not the view of the Board. Additionally, Board members shall maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained during executive sessions at all times, unless the authority to release the information has been appropriately obtained. The Board will not be bound in any way by any individual's statement or action unless the Board, through an adopted policy or by a majority vote, has delegated this authority to the individual member.

Cross-ref: 1130, Media Relations
 2110, School Board Powers and Duties

Ref: Education Law §§1604; 1709; 2551; 2552; 2554
 General Municipal Law §805-a
 Matter of Bruno, 4 EDR 14 (1964)

Adoption date: July 20, 2011

Revised: