

Sacramento City USD

Board Policy

Political Processes

BP 1160

Community Relations

The Governing Board has a responsibility to actively advocate fiscal and public policy that supports the district's schools and the children in the community. To the extent possible, the Board shall be proactive in defining the district's advocacy agenda based on the needs of the district and the direction set forth in the district's vision and goals.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

The Board may establish reasonable regulations related to Board members and employees engaging in political activity during working hours and on district premises. (Education Code 7055)

(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)

Legislation

The Board's responsibility as an advocate for the district may include lobbying at the state and national levels.

Because local governments also make decisions which impact the district's schools, the Board and the Superintendent or designee shall work to establish ongoing relationships with city and county officials and agencies, and shall inform them of the potential effect of local issues on the schools.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)

The Board shall identify issues that will affect its schools and the children in its community, establish goals and priorities for legislative advocacy, solicit community input and adopt legislative positions. The Superintendent or designee shall establish a coordinated plan for carrying out the advocacy agenda, including specific activities, target groups or individuals, staff responsibilities and timelines.

In order to strengthen legislative advocacy efforts, the district may work with organizations and

coalitions and may join associations whose representatives lobby on behalf of their members.

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee may draft legislative proposals which serve the

If the presentation occurs during working hours, the district representative shall not urge a citizens' group to vote for or against the bond measure.

For informational purposes, the Superintendent or designee may conduct a poll related to a ballot issue. Such a poll shall not advocate a particular position on the issue.

Legal Advocacy

The Board recognizes that some issues are more appropriately addressed judicially rather than legislatively. When a legal issue is likely to set a state or national precedent, the district may join with other districts or parties in order to challenge the issue through litigation or other appropriate means.

(cf. 9124 - Attorney)

Political Forums

Forums on political issues may be held in district facilities as long as the forum is made available to all sides of the issue on an equitable basis. (Education Code 7058)

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7054 Use of district property

7054.1 Requested appearance

7055 Local rules

7056 Soliciting or receiving political funds

Scherer v. Buchanan, First Appellate District, Civil No. A076648
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
73 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 255 (1990)

Management Resources:

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Advice letter #7837, March 18, 1996 (use of public funds to publicize board positions)

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

FPPC No. 93/345 (1996)

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Political Activities of School Districts: Legal Issues, 1998

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Community Leadership, 1996

Policy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: November 16, 1998 Sacramento, California

revised: November 5, 2001