

POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL

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Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

The board of the Bruning-Davenport USD School District, acting on behalf of the school district, shall have jurisdiction over school matters within the territory of the school district.

The board is empowered to make policy for its own governance, for employees, for students and for school district facilities. The board is also empowered to enforce its policies. The board may, through its quasi-judicial power, conduct hearings and rule on issues and disputes confronting the school district.

The board has these powers and all other powers expressly granted to it in federal and state law as well as the powers that can be reasonably implied from the express powers.

The board is authorized to govern the school district which it oversees. As the governing board of the school district, the board has three duties to perform: legislative duty, executive duty, and evaluative duty.

As a representative of the citizens of the school district, the board is responsible for legislating policy for the school district. As a policy making body, the board has jurisdiction to enact policy with the force and effect of law for the management and operation of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the board, under the board’s executive duty, to select its chief executive officer, the superintendent, to operate the school district on the board’s behalf. The board delegates to the superintendent its authority to carry out board policy, to formulate and carry out rules and regulations and to handle the administrative details in a manner which supports and is consistent with board policy. The board may enter into certain contracts as permitted by law for periods not to exceed four years.

The board has a responsibility to review the education program’s performance under its evaluative duty. The board regularly reviews the education program and associated support services. The review includes a careful study and examination of the facts, conditions and circumstances surrounding the amount of funds received or expended and the education program’s ability to achieve the board’s educational philosophy for the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-261 to 263
79-501 to 524
79-734
NDE Rule 10.004.01

Cross Reference 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
104 Educational and Operational Planning

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

205 School Board Policy Process
601 Goals and Objectives of Instructional Plan

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

BOARD MEMBERSHIP - ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The annual school election takes place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Terms shall be staggered so that three board members are elected at each general election. Members of the board will be elected district.

Incumbents must file for election at the Office of the County Clerk, Thayer County, by July prior to the date of the primary election. All other candidates must file for election by August prior to the date of the primary election.

If a vacancy occurs on the board it may be temporarily filled by appointment within 45 days of the vacancy by the remaining members of the board. The remainder of the unexpired term shall be filled by the normal board member election process in the next general election. If the board does not fill the vacancy by appointment, the vacancy may be filled by election at a special election or school district meeting called for that purpose. If a majority of the offices of the school board members are vacant, the Secretary of State will call a special school district election to fill the vacancies.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-501 et seq.

Cross Reference: 201.05 Term of Office

QUALIFICATIONS

Serving on the school board is an honor and privilege. Its rewards are respect from the community, students, and employees and the satisfaction from knowing each board member contributed to the success of the children in the school district community. Only those who are willing to put forth the effort to care and to make a difference should consider running for a position on the board.

Individuals who are willing to serve on the board should believe public education is important, support the democratic process, willingly devote time and energy to board work, respect educators and have the ability to examine the facts and make a decision. The board believes an individual considering a position on the school board should possess these characteristics.

Persons wanting to run for a position on the board must be a resident of the school district, an eligible elector of the district and free from a financial conflict of interest with the position. No member of a school board may be employed as a teacher by the school district on which board he or she serves.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-543, 544

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 201.06 Vacancies
 202.01 Board Member Conflict of Interest

TERM OF OFFICE - CLASS II DISTRICT

Three board members of an existing Class II district will be elected at each general election. Board members appointed to fill a vacant position will serve until the January following the next general election.

Being a board member is a unique opportunity for a citizen to participate on a governing board of the school district. Eligible board members are encouraged to consider running for more than one term.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 32-542

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment

BOARD MEMBER LIABILITY

Board members shall not be held personally liable for actions taken in the performance of their duties and responsibilities vested in them by the laws of Nebraska and the members of the school district community. In carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their office, board members shall act in good faith.

The school district shall defend, save harmless and indemnify board members against tort claims or demands, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring within the scope of their official duties, unless it constitutes a willful or wanton act or omission. However, the school district shall not save harmless or indemnify board members for punitive damages.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-516

Cross Reference: 708.01 Insurance Program

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

Board members' actions, verbal and nonverbal, reflect the attitude and the beliefs of the school district. Therefore, board members must conduct themselves professionally and in a manner fitting to their position.

Each board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER:

1. I will listen.
2. I will respect the opinion of others.
3. I will recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
4. I will be motivated only by an earnest desire to serve my school district and the children of my school district community in the best possible way.
5. I will not use the school district or any part of the school district program for my own personal advantage or for the advantage of my friends or supporters.
6. I will vote for a closed session of the board if the situation requires it, but I will consider "secret" sessions of board members unethical.
7. I will recognize that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition which is to be considered is to close my mind and agree not to think through other facts and points of view which may be presented in the meeting.
8. I will expect, in board meetings, to spend more time on education programs and procedures than on business details.
9. I will recognize that authority rests with the board in legal session and not with individual members of the board, except as authorized by law.
10. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the board meeting, about other members of the board or their opinions.
11. I will express my honest and most thoughtful opinions frankly in board meetings in an effort to have decisions made for the best interests of the children and the education program.
12. I will insist that the members of the board participate fully in board action and recommend that when special committees are appointed, they serve only in an investigative and advisory capacity.
13. I will abide by majority decisions of the board.
14. I will carefully consider petitions, resolutions and complaints and will act in the best interests of the school district.
15. I will not discuss the confidential business of the board in my home, on the street or in my office; the place for such discussion is the board meeting.
16. I will endeavor to keep informed on local, state and national educational developments of significance so I may become a better board member.

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IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY:

1. I will consider myself a trustee of public education and will do my best to protect it, conserve it, and advance it, giving to the children of my school district community the educational facilities that are as complete and adequate as it is possible to provide.
2. I will consider it an important responsibility of the board to interpret the aims, methods and attitudes of the school district to the community.
3. I will earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the school district community and do my best to translate them into the education program of the school district.
4. I will attempt to procure adequate financial support for the school district.
5. I will represent the entire school district rather than individual electors, patrons or groups.
6. I will not regard the school district facilities as my own private property but as the property of the people.

IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT AND EMPLOYEES:

1. I will function, in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine, as part of a legislative, policy-forming body, not as an administrative officer.
2. I will recognize that it is my responsibility, together with that of my fellow board members, to see the school district is properly run and not to run them myself.
3. I will expect the school district to be administered by the best-trained technical and professional people it is possible to procure within the financial resources of the school district.
4. I will recognize the superintendent as executive officer of the board.
5. I will work through the administrative employees of the board, not over or around them.
6. I will expect the superintendent to keep the board adequately informed through oral and written reports.
7. I will vote to hire employees only after the recommendation of the superintendent has been received.
8. I will insist that contracts be equally binding on teachers and board.
9. I will give the superintendent power commensurate with the superintendent's responsibility and will not in any way interfere with, or seek to undermine, the superintendent's authority.
10. I will give the superintendent friendly counsel and advice.
11. I will present any personal criticism of employees to the superintendent.
12. I will refer complaints to the proper administrative officer.

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TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER SCHOOL BOARDS:

1. I will not employ a superintendent, principal or teacher who is already under contract with another school district without first securing assurance from the proper authority that the person can be released from contract.
2. I will consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a neighboring board or its representatives.
3. I will not recommend an employee for a position in another school district unless I would employ the individual under similar circumstances.
4. I will answer all inquiries about the standing and ability of an employee to the best of my knowledge and judgement, with complete frankness.
5. I will associate myself with board members of other school districts for the purpose of discussing school district issues and cooperating in the improvement of the education program.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 202.02 Board Member Conflict of Interest

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BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It shall be the responsibility of each board member to be aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest. It shall also be the responsibility of each board member to take the action necessary to eliminate such a conflict of interest. Should a conflict of interest arise, a board member should not participate in any action relating to the issue from which the conflict arose.

No voting board member may have an interest in any contract to which the district, or anyone for its benefit, is party. The prohibition applies when the board member or the board member's immediate family is a partner, director, officer, or is a stockholder of closed corporation stock worth one thousand dollars or more at fair market value or which represents more than a five per cent equity interest, or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. An individual who occupies a confidential professional relationship protected by law is exempt from this policy. This policy does not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account.

The above prohibition does not apply if the voting board member:

1. Supplies a written statement describing the matter up for decision and the nature of the conflict to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and to the board secretary. The secretary shall enter the statement onto the public records of the district.
2. The board member must take such action as the Commission advises to remove himself or herself from influence over the decision.
3. Does not vote on the matter of granting the contract, except if the number of members of the board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board, with all members present, from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matter and this action will be reported to the commission; and
4. Does not act for the district to inspect, supervise or determine the performance of contracts under which he or she has an interest.

A board member who is an employee of a business involved in a contract with the district and who has no ownership interest or will receive no direct fee or commission shall not be deemed to have an interest within the meaning of this policy. The receiving of deposits, cashing of checks and buying and selling of warrants and bonds of indebtedness

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of any school district by a financial institution will not be considered an interest in the contract under this policy.

If a board member's immediate family member is an employee of the school district, the member may vote on all issues of the contract which are generally applicable to all employees or all employees within a classification and do not single out his or her family member for special action.

Any contract entered into with an interested board member shall be subject to applicable competitive bidding requirements and shall be fair and reasonable to the school district.

A voting board member or district employee may employ, recommend the employment of, or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if he or she does not abuse his or her official position and makes a full disclosure of the relationship to the board and a written disclosure of the relationship to the board secretary. No board member or administrator shall employ an immediate family member without first having made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment. The family member must be qualified for, able to perform, and required to perform the duties of the position. The family member must not be paid an unreasonably high salary. No existing employee may be terminated for the purpose of making a position available to such a family member.

Any newly elected or appointed board member or administrator shall make a full disclosure of any immediate family member employed in a position subject to this policy as soon as reasonably possible after the date of taking office.

No board member or district employee shall use their position or any confidential information received through their position to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, an immediate family member, or a business with which the individual is associated. No board member shall use or authorize the use of personnel, property, resources or funds under his or her official care for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question.

The superintendent shall keep a record for the district for every contract entered into by the district in which a board member has an interest. This information shall be kept for five years from the date of the board member's last day in office and will include the following:

13. Names of contracting parties;
14. The nature of the interest of the board member in question;

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15. The date that the contract was approved by the district;
16. The amount of the contract; and
17. Basic terms of the contract.

The record kept by the superintendent shall be available for public inspection during the normal working hours of the superintendent's office.

An open account established by the district with a business in which a board member has an interest, shall be deemed a contract subject to the provisions of this policy. The superintendent shall maintain a running account of all amounts purchased in open accounts.

Contracts involving one hundred dollars or less in which a board member may have an interest are excluded from the provisions of this policy.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 49-1493 to 14,103.7

Cross Reference: 201 Legal Status of the School Board
202.01 Board Member Code of Ethics
206.04 Board Member Compensation and Expenses
402.04 Nepotism

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BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

The primary purpose for board self-evaluation is for the improvement of school board leadership. In evaluating the board's functions and roles, the board may focus attention to the following:

1. Evaluation shall be conducted annually at a scheduled time and place;
2. The evaluation should be a composite of the individual board members' opinions;
3. The evaluation should include a constructive discussion of strengths and weaknesses; and
4. The board should be free to comment on any area related to its function of governing the district.

The board and superintendent will cooperatively develop an evaluation plan that annually evaluates the various aspects of the board's functions, duties, and roles. The evaluation will include the following items:

1. The evaluation instrument shall define and describe the standards against which the board evaluates its performance.
2. The evaluation shall include the establishment of objectives and strategies for improving board performance.
3. The evaluation shall analyze progress toward existing board goals and examine the need to establish new or revised goals.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
104 Educational and Operational Planning
201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
702.02 Budget Planning, Preparation and Schedules
902.01 Buildings and Sites Long Range Planning
1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

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ETHICS VIOLATIONS

The board believes serious violations of its Code of Ethics by members of the board may be extremely damaging to the school district’s reputation or to it’s ability to function effectively. The board of education bears sole responsibility for remediation and may take the following steps whenever a majority of the board has expressed its concerns about a violation of ethics to the officers:

1. The board as a whole will review its adopted Code of Ethics during a regularly scheduled meeting or work session and use that opportunity to discuss the consequences of ethics violations.
2. One member of the board—preferably the board president—will visit informally with the identified member, identifying the specific instances in which that person has behaved unethically and describing the negative impact of those actions on his or her fellow board members or on the school as a whole. Alternatively, the board as a whole will go into executive session during a regular meeting to confront the individual's unethical behavior and to discuss the negative impact.
3. The board may invite its attorney to participate in an executive session to explain the potential legal ramifications that may arise from certain violations such as disclosing confidential information to the public.
4. The board may make a motion to “censure” the individual for his or her unethical behavior. Because the board’s motions are published as part of the minutes, the motion for censure should specifically identify the Code of Ethics violations and the negative impact on the effectiveness of the board or the district. In this way, the board is able to alert the community to the fact that an individual member of the board is not properly fulfilling the responsibilities for which he or she was elected.
5. In order to assure responsible school leadership, board members may actively recruit competent individuals to run for election to board service. Board members shall not utilize any district resources in the effort, but may legally recruit and campaign for others to run for the board of education.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 202.01 Board Member Code of Ethics
 1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

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BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

An annual organizational board meeting shall be held at which all newly elected board members will assume their duties and take the oath of office. At the annual meeting, the board shall appoint all necessary board officers and committees.

The superintendent shall assume chairmanship of the meeting for the purpose of electing a board president. Ballots for president may be cast in secret but the total vote for each candidate shall be recorded by the secretary.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-724
 84-712
 84-1413

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment

SECRETARY-TREASURER

The secretary-treasurer of the board shall be elected by a majority vote at the organizational meeting each year to serve a one-year term of office.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary-treasurer, as custodian of school district records, to preserve and maintain the records and documents pertaining to the business of the board; to keep complete minutes of special and regular board meetings; to cause the meeting minutes and a list of all approved claims to be published; to keep a record of the results of regular and special elections; to keep an accurate account of school funds; to sign warrants drawn on the school funds after board approval; and to complete and maintain the annual school census. The board secretary is also responsible for filing the required reports with the Nebraska Department of Education.

In addition, it is the responsibility of the board secretary-treasurer to receive the funds collected for the district by the county treasurer, to pay out the funds for expenses approved by the board, to maintain accurate accounting records for each fund, to manage districts investments for the maximum benefit to the district, to report monthly and annually the status of all district funds and investments, and to file required reports with the appropriate state agencies and other entities.

The treasurer shall give bond in an amount set by the board. The cost of the bond will be paid by the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-528
 79-564
 79-576 to 580
 79-586 to 589

Cross Reference: 104.01 Annual School Census
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting
 203.05 Treasurer
 204.11 Meeting Minutes
 700 Business Operation

BOARD COMMITTEES

Committees will be appointed by the president of the board. These committees are created for specific tasks of seeking information or investigation and will report back to the board for its consideration and action. Committee action is considered to be advisory only. Each committee will have a chairperson appointed by the president. The following committees are appointed at the annual board organizational meeting for one year:

Americanism and Textbooks

Building and Grounds

Negotiations

Transportation

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-724

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEES

Whenever the board considers it necessary, the board may appoint a committee composed of patrons, students, staff, administrators and board members.

An advisory committee is formed by board resolution which shall outline the duties and purpose of the committee. The committee is advisory in nature and has no duty or responsibility other than that specifically stated in the board resolution. The committee shall automatically dissolve upon the delivery of its final recommendation to the board or upon completion of the duties outlined in the board resolution. The board will receive the report of the committee for consideration. The board retains the authority to make a final decision on the issue. The committee will conduct its meetings as open meetings and a record of committee members present will be kept.

The method for selection of committee members shall be stated in the board resolution. When possible, and when the necessary expertise required allows, the committee members will be representative of the school district community and shall consider the various viewpoints on the issue. The board may designate a specific board member and administrator to serve on an advisory committee. The committee will select its own chairperson, unless the board designates otherwise.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 104 Educational and Operational Planning
 204.05 Open Meetings
 204.06 Closed Sessions
 1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

It shall be the responsibility of the board to employ legal counsel to assist the board and the administration in carrying out their duties with respect to the numerous legal issues confronting the school district. The board may appoint legal counsel on an annual basis.

The superintendent and board president shall have the authority to contact the board's legal counsel on behalf of the board when the superintendent or board president believes it is necessary for the management of the school district. The board's legal counsel may attend regular or special school board meetings upon the request of the board or the superintendent. Other board members may contact legal counsel upon approval of a majority of the board. It shall be the responsibility of each board member to pay the legal fees, if any, of an attorney the board member consulted regarding matters of the school district unless the board has authorized the board member to consult an attorney on the matter in accordance with this policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board informed of matters for which legal counsel was consulted, particularly if the legal services will involve unusual expense for the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-513

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the president of the board or any two board members. Should a special meeting be called, public notice shall be given and the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the open meetings laws.

If the special meeting called is an emergency meeting and the board cannot give public notice in its usual manner, the board shall give public notice of the meeting as soon as practical and possible in light of the situation. The reason for the emergency meeting and why notice in its usual manner could not be given shall be stated in the minutes. Minutes of the emergency meeting must be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

Only the purpose or issue for which the special meeting was called may be discussed and decided in the special meeting. The board shall strictly adhere to the agenda for the special meeting and action on other issues shall be reserved for the next regular or special board meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-554
 79-555 (Class III)
 79-560 (Class IV)
 79-561 (Class V)
 79-563 (Class VI)
 84-712
 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 204 School Board Meetings

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public notice of a public hearing shall be in the same manner as for a board meeting and shall be given at least five days before the hearing is to be held.

At public hearings, citizens of the district who register at the door will be allowed to speak on the issue for which the public hearing is being held. Others may be allowed to speak at the board's discretion. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks as brief as possible. Prior to the beginning of the hearing, speakers and spectators will be apprised of the rules of order to be followed regarding time limitations, questions, remarks and rebuttals. In no event will a speaker be allowed to take the time of another speaker.

The board shall conduct public hearings in an orderly fashion. At the beginning of the hearing statements, background materials and public hearing rules and procedures will be presented by the board president or administrators. The board president will recognize the speakers. A board member may ask questions of the speakers after receiving permission from the board president. Only those speakers recognized by the chair will be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. Individuals who interfere with or interrupt speakers, the board or the proceedings shall be asked to leave.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 et seq.

Cross Reference: 204.01 Regular Board Meetings
204.12 Public Participation at Board Meetings
702.03 Budget Adoption Process

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WORK SESSIONS AND RETREATS

The board may, as needed or desired, schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide its members and the administration with the opportunity to conduct planning, research, and thoughtful discussion without taking immediate action. The board has the authority to hire an outside facilitator to assist them in these work sessions.

Topics for discussion and study will be announced publicly, and work sessions and retreats will be conducted in open session. However, no board action will take place at the work session.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 204.05 Open Meetings

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OPEN MEETINGS

A gathering of a majority of board members for the purposes of briefing, discussion of board business, formation of policy or taking formal action is a board meeting. Meetings of the board shall be conducted in a meeting open to the public unless the board is temporarily convened in a closes session.

Chance or social gatherings, attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops or other occasions when there is no discussion of or action on any matter within the board's supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power will not constitute a meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1410

Cross Reference: 204.06 Closed Sessions

CLOSED SESSIONS

A closed, or executive, session will take place as part of an open meeting of the board. The item for discussion in the closed session shall be listed as part of the tentative agenda on the public notice. The motion for a closed session, stating the purpose for the closed session, shall be made and seconded during the open meeting, and approved by a majority of the voting members. The minutes shall state the reason for the closed session, the roll call vote to enter closed session, and the time the closed session began and ended.

The board shall restrict its considerations to only those matters set forth in the minutes as the reason for the closed session. Reasons for the board entering into a closed session from an open meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, or litigation;
2. Discussion regarding the use of security personnel or devices;
3. Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;
4. Evaluations of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if that person has not requested a public meeting.
5. No formal action may be taken until the board has reconvened in open session.

Any board member may challenge the continuation of a closed session if he or she believes the session has exceeded the reason stated in the motion to hold the closed session. A majority vote of the board is required in order to overrule the challenge. The challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1410

Cross Reference: 204.05 Open Meetings

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MEETING NOTICE

Reasonable advance public notice shall be given for meetings and work sessions held by the board by a method designated and recorded in the board minutes. Public notice shall indicate the time, place, date and tentative agenda of board meetings. The notice shall be transmitted to the public and a copy kept readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the district. Except for items of an emergency nature the agenda shall not be altered later than 24 hours before the meeting.

A copy of the public notice will be provided to those who have filed a request for notice with the secretary. These requests for notice must be in writing. A copy of the public notice will also be accessible to employees and students.

In the case of special meetings, public notice shall be given in the same manner as for a regular meeting unless it is an emergency meeting. In that case, public notice of the meeting shall be given as soon as notified of the emergency meeting. Attendance at a special meeting or emergency meeting by the media or board members shall constitute a waiver of notice.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary to give public notice of board meetings and work sessions. The secretary shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-1408 to 1414
 79-554
 79-560
 79-561

Cross Reference: 204.01 Regular Meetings
 204.02 Special Meetings
 204.10 Agenda

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MEETING MINUTES

The board shall keep and maintain permanent records of the board including, but not limited to, records of the minutes of board meetings, documentation received or disclosed in open session of the meetings, and other required records of the board.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary-treasurer, or designee, to keep the minutes of the board meetings. The minutes of each board meeting shall include as a minimum the following items: a record of the date, time, place, members present, action taken and the vote of each member, and the schedule of bills allowed shall be attached. This information shall be available within 10 days of the board meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, if earlier. Minutes shall be forwarded to the newspaper designated as the official newspaper for publication. The schedule of bills allowed may be published on a once monthly basis in lieu of publication with the minutes. The permanent records of the board minutes may include more detail than is required for the publication of the minutes.

Minutes awaiting approval at the next board meeting will be available for inspection at the principal office of the district after the board secretary-treasurer, or designee, transcribes the notes into typewritten material which has been proofread for errors and retyped.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-577
 79-582, 583
 84-712
 84-1408 to 1414

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the board shall set time aside for citizen participation, either at a specific time during the meeting or during the discussion of agenda items. The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

If the pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to eliminate this practice at a particular meeting. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time. The orderly process of the board meeting shall not be interfered with or disrupted. Only those speakers recognized by the board president shall be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual making the comments or another individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting.

Citizens wishing to address the board on a certain agenda item must notify the superintendent prior to the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the board may do so at this time. However, the board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

Subjects for comment should involve areas within the board’s proper responsibility. Discussion on unrelated matters is to be discouraged.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees may bring their complaint to the board only after they have followed board policy addressing citizens’ complaints. Students who have a complaint may only bring their complaint to the board after they have followed board policy addressing students’ complaints.

Any written or printed materials to be circulated for a meeting of the school board must be submitted to the superintendent by the Wednesday preceding a Monday night meeting. This material will be transmitted to the members of the board for their consideration.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 201.07 School Board Liability
204.03 Public Hearings
204.10 Agenda
403.05 Public Complaints about Employees

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The board has jurisdiction to determine the policies which will govern the operations of the school district with the force and effect of law.

The written policy statements contained in this manual provide guidelines and goals to the citizens, administration, employees and students in the school district community. The policy statements shall be the basis for the formulation of regulations by the administration. The board shall determine the effectiveness of the policy statements by evaluating periodic reports from the administration.

Policy statements may be proposed by a board member, administrator, employee, student or member of the school district community. Proposed policy statements or ideas shall be submitted to the superintendent's office for possible placement on the board agenda. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to bring these proposals to the attention of the board.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-520 (Class I)
 79-521 (Class IV)
 79-522 (Class V)
 79-523 (Class VI)
 79-526 (Class I through IV)
 79-532
 79-539
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

POLICY ADOPTION

The board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of three regular board meetings, whereupon during the third regular board meeting the new policy will be changed or adopted. The proposed policy changes shall be distributed and public comment will be allowed at each meeting prior to final board action. This notice procedure shall be required except for emergency situations. If the board adopts a policy in an emergency situation, a statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The board shall have complete discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.

The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the board at the next regular meeting after the meeting allowing public discussion. The policy will be effective on the later of the date of passage or the date stated in the motion.

In the case of an emergency, a new or changed policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the board. The emergency policy shall expire at the close of the fourth regular meeting following the emergency action, unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-520 (Class III)
 79-521 (Class IV)
 79-522 (Class V)
 79-523 (Class VI)
 79-526
 84-712 et seq.
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION

The board will review, update and approve the policy manual annually.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board informed as to legal changes at both the federal and state levels. The superintendent shall also be responsible for bringing proposed policy statement revisions to the board's attention.

If a policy is revised because of a legal change over which the board has no control or a change which is minor, the policy may be approved at one meeting at the discretion of the board.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79- 520 (Class I)
 79-521 (Class IV)
 79-522 (Class V)
 79-523 (Class VI)
 79-526 (Class I, II, III, and IV)
 79-532
 79-539
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

POLICY SUSPENSION

It shall be within the discretion or amendment of the board to suspend a policy. Policies of the board may be immediately amended or temporarily suspended by a majority vote of board members present at an official meeting of the board if the board determines that an emergency exists. This does not apply to any section of board policies established by law or by contract. Reasons for amendment or suspension of board policy shall be documented in board minutes.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATION IN THE ABSENCE OF POLICY

When there is no board policy in existence to provide guidance on a matter, the superintendent is authorized to act appropriately, keeping in mind the educational philosophy and financial condition of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to document the action taken and to inform the board of the situation. If needed, the superintendent shall draft a proposed policy for the board to consider.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 302.04 Superintendent Duties

REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

The Superintendent has responsibility for carrying out the policies established by the board.

When necessary, it shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement the board policies. The regulations, including handbooks, will be reviewed and adopted by the board when specific state or federal laws require the board to do so or when the board or superintendent considers such approval desirable.

The administrative regulations will be available no later than the first regular board meeting after the adoption of the board policy unless the board directs otherwise.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
 302.04 Superintendent Duties

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

Each new board member shall be given an orientation program under the direction of the superintendent. This briefing shall include a current copy of the board policy manual, the budget, the latest annual report and such other documents as the superintendent may include to foster an understanding of the operation of the district. The superintendent shall set aside such time as is necessary to answer any questions arising from the study of these documents, and shall cooperate fully in assisting the new member to become an informed and active board member.

Cross Reference: 201.02 Board Membership - Elections/Appointment
 202 School Board Member Conduct

BOARD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Participation in board member associations are beneficial to the board. The board shall maintain an active membership in the Nebraska Association of School Boards and in organizations the board determines will be of benefit to the board and the school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-512

Cross Reference: 206.03 Board Member Development Opportunities

BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The board may participate in conferences sponsored by educational associations and agencies in addition to its own in-service programs and work sessions.

The board shall encourage its members to attend training and development programs with the purpose of improving members' leadership skills, increasing their knowledge of educational issues and better representing the interests of the school district.

Cross Reference: 206.02 Board Association Membership

POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL

Section 300 Administration

- 300.01 Role of Administration

- 301 Administrative Structure**
 - 301.01 Structure of Management
 - 301.02 Management Team
 - 301.03 Succession of Authority to the Superintendent
 - 301.04 Communication Channels

- 302 Superintendent**
 - 302.01 Superintendent Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointment
 - 302.02 Superintendent Contract and Contract Nonrenewal
 - 302.03 Superintendent Salary and Other Compensation
 - 302.04 Superintendent Duties
 - 302.05 Superintendent Evaluation
 - 302.06 Superintendent Professional Development
 - 302.07 Superintendent Civic Activities
 - 302.08 Superintendent Consulting/Outside Employment

- 303 Administrative Employees**
 - 303.01 Administrative Positions
 - 303.02 Administrator Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointment
 - 303.03 Administrator Contract and Contract Nonrenewal
 - 303.04 Administrator Salary and Other Compensation
 - 303.05 Administrator Duties
 - 303.06 Administrator Evaluation
 - 303.07 Administrator Professional Development
 - 303.08 Administrator Civic Activities
 - 303.09 Administrator Consulting/Outside Employment

- 304 Policy Implementation**
 - 304.01 Development and Enforcement of Administrative Regulations
 - 304.02 Monitoring of Administrative Regulations
 - 304.03 Handbooks and Directives

- 305 Administrative Code of Ethics

ROLE OF ADMINISTRATION

In this series of the board policy manual, the board defines the role and the employment of school district administrators. Policies in the 400 Series, "Employees," also apply to administrators unless a more specific policy exists in the 300 Series, "Administration."

School district administrators have been given a great opportunity and responsibility to manage the school district, to provide educational leadership, and to implement the educational philosophy of the school district. They are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school district. In carrying out these operations, the administrators are guided by board policies, the law, the needs of the students, and the wishes of the citizens in the school district community.

It shall be the responsibility of the administrators to implement and enforce the policies of the board, to oversee employees, to monitor educational issues confronting the school district, and to inform the board about school district operations.

While the board holds the superintendent ultimately responsible for these duties, the principals are more directly responsible for educational results, for the administration of the school facilities and for the employees.

The board and the administration shall work together to share information and decisions under the management team concept.

STRUCTURE OF MANAGEMENT

The board and the administrators shall work together in making decisions and setting goals for the school district. This effort is designed to obtain, share, and use information to solve problems, make decisions, and formulate school district policies and regulations.

It shall be the responsibility of each administrator to fully participate in the management of the school district by investigating, analyzing, and expressing their views on issues. Those board members or administrators with special expertise or knowledge of an issue may be called upon to provide information. Each board member and administrator shall support the decisions reached on the issues confronting the school district.

The board shall be responsible for making the final decision in matters pertaining to the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop guidelines for cooperative decision-making.

SUCCESSION OF AUTHORITY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

In the absence of the superintendent, it shall be the responsibility of the other administrators to assume the superintendent's duties. The succession of authority to the superintendent shall be in this order:

1. Principal

If the absence of the superintendent is temporary, the successor shall assume only those duties and responsibilities of the superintendent that require immediate action. If the board determines the absence of the superintendent will be a lengthy one, the board shall appoint an acting superintendent to assume the responsibilities of the superintendent. The successor shall assume the duties when the successor learns of the superintendent's absence or when assigned by the superintendent or the board.

References to "superintendent" in this policy manual shall mean the "superintendent or the superintendent's designee" unless otherwise stated in the board policy.

Cross Reference: 302 Superintendent

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Questions and problems shall be resolved at the lowest organizational level nearest to the complaint. School employees shall be responsible for conferring with their immediate supervisor on questions and concerns. Students and other members of the school district community shall confer with a certificated employee and then with the principal on questions and concerns.

If resolution is not possible by any of the above, individuals may bring it to the attention of the superintendent within ten (10) school days of their discussion with the principal. If there is no resolution or plan for resolution by the superintendent within ten (10) school days of the individual's discussion with the superintendent, the individual may ask to have the question or problem placed on the board agenda. The action of the board will be final.

It shall first be the responsibility of the administrators to resolve questions and problems raised by the employees and the students they supervise and by other members of the school district community.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-254 et seq.

Cross Reference: 204.12 Public Participation in Board Meetings
402.05 Employee Grievances
504.01 Student Due Process Rights
506.06 Student Publications
1005.01 Public Complaints

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SUPERINTENDENT QUALIFICATIONS, RECRUITMENT, APPOINTMENT

The board shall employ a superintendent to serve as the chief executive officer of the board, to conduct the daily operations of the school district, and to implement board policy with the power and duties prescribed by the board and the law.

The board shall consider applicants that meet or exceed the standards set by the Nebraska Department of Education and the qualifications established in the job description for the superintendent position. In employing a superintendent, the board shall consider the qualifications, credentials and records of the applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, religion, age, or disability. The board will look closely at the training, experience, skill and demonstrated competence of qualified applicants in making its final decision.

In choosing a superintendent, the board shall also consider the school district's educational philosophy, financial situation, organizational structure, education programs, and other factors deemed relevant by the board.

The board may contract for assistance in the search for a superintendent.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (1994).
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e et seq. (1994).

Cross Reference: 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
301 Administrative Structure

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT AND CONTRACT NONRENEWAL

It shall be the responsibility of the board to provide the contract for the position of superintendent. The length of the contract for employment between the superintendent and the board shall be determined by the board, but shall not exceed three years. The contract will begin on July 1 and end on June 30. The contract shall state the terms of employment.

The superintendent serves the board as a probationary certificated employee, regardless of length of service. The superintendent's contract shall be deemed renewed and will remain in full force unless it is amended or not renewed. The superintendent and board may mutually agree to terminate the superintendent's contract at any time.

In the event of nonrenewal, termination or amendment of a contract, the board shall afford the superintendent appropriate due process, including notice of its intent by April 15. Unless continued by mutual written agreement according to statutory procedures, the board shall take final action on the contract by May 15.

If the superintendent wishes to resign, to be released from a contract, or to retire, the superintendent must comply with board policies dealing with retirement, release or resignation.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-824 et seq.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SUPERINTENDENT SALARY AND OTHER COMPENSATION

The board has complete discretion to set the salary of the superintendent. It shall be the responsibility of the board to set the salary and benefits of the superintendent at a level that will include consideration of, but not be limited to, the economic condition of the school district and the training, experience, skill, and demonstrated competence of the superintendent. The salary shall be set at the beginning of each contract term.

In addition to the salary and benefits, the superintendent's actual and necessary expenses shall be paid by the school district when the superintendent is performing work-related duties. It shall be within the discretion of the board to pay dues to professional organizations for the superintendent. The information and professional relationships offered by these organizations are an important component in assisting the superintendent with the successful completion of his or her duties.

The board may approve the payment of dues and other benefits or compensation over and above the superintendent's contract. Approval of dues and other benefits or compensation shall be included in the records of the board in accordance with board policy.

Cross Reference: 302 Superintendent

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SUPERINTENDENT DUTIES

The board employs a superintendent of schools to serve as the chief executive officer of the board. The board delegates to the superintendent the authority to implement board policy and to execute decisions made by the board concerning the internal operations of the school district, unless specifically stated otherwise.

The superintendent shall be responsible for the implementation and execution of board policy and the observance of board policy by employees and students. The superintendent shall be responsible for overall supervision and discipline of employees and the education program.

In executing the above-stated duties, the superintendent shall consider the financial situation of the school district as well as the needs of the students. Specifically the superintendent:

1. Interprets and implements all board policies and all state and federal laws relevant to education;
2. Supervises, either directly or through delegation, all activities of the school system according to, and consistent with, the policies of the board;
3. Represents the board as a liaison between the school district and the community;
4. Establishes and maintains a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities and needs of the school district, effecting a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the school district and the community;
5. Attends and participates in all meetings of the board, except when the superintendent's employment or salary is under consideration when the superintendent has been excused, and makes recommendations affecting the school district;
6. Reports to the board on such matters as deemed material to the understanding and proper management of the school district or as the board may request;
7. Assumes responsibility for the overall financial planning of the district and for the preparation of the annual budget, and submits it to the board for review and approval;
8. Establishes and maintains efficient procedures and effective controls for all expenditures of school district funds in accordance with the adopted budget, subject to the direction and approval of the board;
9. Files, or causes to be filed, all reports required by law;
10. Makes recommendations to the board for the selection of employees for the school district;
11. Makes and records assignments and transfers of all employees pursuant to their qualifications;

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

12. Employs such employees as may be necessary, within the limits of budgetary provisions and subject to the board's approval;
13. Recommends to the board, for final action, the promotion, salary change, demotion, or dismissal of any employee;
14. Prescribes rules for the classification and advancement of students, and for the transfer of students from one building to another in accordance with board policies;
15. Summons employees of the school district to attend such regular and occasional meetings as are necessary to carry out the education program of the school district;
16. Supervises methods of teaching, supervision, and administration in effect in the schools;
17. Attends such conventions and conferences as are necessary to keep informed of the latest educational trends;
18. Accepts responsibility for the general efficiency of the school system, for the development of the employees, and for the educational growth and welfare of the students;
19. Defines educational needs and formulates policies and plans for recommendation to the board;
20. Makes administrative decisions necessary for the proper functioning of the school district;
21. Responsible for scheduling the use of buildings and grounds by all groups and/or organizations;
22. Acts as the purchasing agent for the board, and establishes procedures for the purchase of books, materials and supplies;
23. Approves vacation schedules for employees;
24. Conducts periodic district administration meetings; and,
25. Performs other duties as may be assigned by the board.
26. Supervises the establishment or modification of the boundaries of school attendance and transportation areas subject to approval of the board.
27. Directs studies of buildings and sites, taking into consideration population trends and the educational and cultural needs of the district in order to ensure timely decisions by the board and the electorate regarding construction and renovation projects.

This list of duties shall not act to limit the board's authority and responsibility over the superintendent. In executing these duties and others the board may delegate, the superintendent shall consider the school district's financial condition as well as the needs of the students in the school district.

Cross Reference: 205 School Board Policy Process
 301 Administrative Structure

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

The board will conduct an ongoing evaluation of the superintendent's skills, abilities, and competence. At a minimum, the board will formally evaluate the superintendent twice in the first year and annually thereafter. The goal of the superintendent's formal evaluation is to ensure the education program for the students is carried out, promote growth in effective administrative leadership, clarify the superintendent's role, clarify the immediate priorities of the board, and develop a working relationship between the board and the superintendent.

The formal evaluation will be based upon the following principles:

1. The evaluation criteria shall be in writing, clearly stated and mutually agreed upon by the board and the superintendent. The criteria will be related to the job description and the school district's goals;
2. At a minimum, the evaluation process will be conducted annually at a time agreed upon;
3. Each board member shall have an opportunity to individually evaluate the superintendent, and these individual evaluations will be compiled into an overall evaluation by the entire board;
4. The board as a whole shall discuss its evaluation with the superintendent;
5. The board may discuss its evaluation of the superintendent in closed session upon a request from the superintendent if the board determines its discussion in open session will needlessly and irreparably injure the superintendent's reputation;
6. The individual evaluation by each board member, if individual board members so desire, will not be reviewed by the superintendent. Board members are encouraged to communicate their criticisms and concerns to the superintendent in the closed session; and
7. The board will complete the evaluation process by reaching consensus on goals or priorities for the superintendent for the next period of evaluation.

The board president will develop a written summary of the individual evaluations, including both the strengths and the weaknesses of the superintendent, and place it in the superintendent's personnel file to be incorporated into the next cycle of evaluations.

This policy supports and does not preclude the ongoing, informal evaluation of the superintendent's skills, abilities and competence.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-828

Cross Reference: 202.03 Board Self-Evaluation
204.06 Closed Sessions
302.01 Superintendent Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointment

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

SUPERINTENDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The board encourages the superintendent to continue professional growth by being involved in professional organizations, attending conferences, continuing education, and participating in other professional activities.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to arrange the superintendent's schedule in order to enable attendance at various conferences and events. If a conference or event requires the superintendent to be absent from the office for more than three days, requires overnight travel, or involves unusual expense, the superintendent shall bring it to the attention of the board president prior to attending the event.

The superintendent shall report to the board after an event.

Cross Reference: 303.07 Administrator Professional Development
 402.08 Employee Travel Compensation

SUPERINTENDENT CIVIC ACTIVITIES

The board encourages the superintendent to be involved in the school district community by belonging to school district community organizations and attending and participating in school district community activities.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to become involved in school district community activities and events. The board may include a lump sum amount as part of the superintendent's compensation to be used specifically for paying the annual fees of the superintendent for school district community activities and events if, in the board's judgment, the superintendent's participation will further the public purpose of promoting and deriving support for the school district and public education in general.

Cross Reference: 302.03 Superintendent Salary and Other Compensation
 303.08 Administrator Civic Activities

SUPERINTENDENT CONSULTING/OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

The superintendent's position is considered full-time employment. The board expects the superintendent to give the responsibilities of the position precedence over other employment. The superintendent may accept consulting or outside employment for pay as long as, in the judgment of the board, the work is conducted on the superintendent's personal time and it does not interfere with the performance of the superintendent's duties.

The board reserves the right, however, to request that the superintendent cease the outside employment as a condition of continued employment. The board shall give the superintendent thirty days notice to cease outside employment.

Cross Reference: 302.02 Superintendent Contract and Contract Nonrenewal
 302.04 Superintendent Duties

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

The school district shall have, in addition to the superintendent, the following administrative positions:

- Principal
- Athletic Director

These administrators shall work closely with the superintendent in the day-to-day operations of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of these administrators to uphold board policy, to instill a positive, cooperative environment with employees, and to share their expertise with each other and the board under the management team concept.

Cross Reference: 301 Administrative Structure

ADMINISTRATOR QUALIFICATIONS, RECRUITMENT, APPOINTMENT

The board shall employ building principals and other administrators, in addition to the superintendent, to assist in the daily operations of the school district.

The board shall consider applicants who meet or exceed the standards set by the Nebraska Department of Education and the qualifications established in the job description for the position. In employing an administrator, the board shall consider the qualifications, credentials and records of the applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. In keeping with the law, however, the board will consider the veteran status of the applicants. The board will look closely at the training, experience, skill and demonstrated competence of qualified applicants in making its final decision.

In choosing an administrator, the board shall also consider the school district's educational philosophy, financial condition, organizational structure, education programs, and other factors deemed relevant by the board.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board for filling an administrative position, based on the requirements stated in this policy. The board shall act only on the superintendent's recommendation.

The board may contract for assistance in the search for administrators.

ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT AND CONTRACT NONRENEWAL

The length of the contract for employment between an administrator and the board shall be determined by the board and stated in the contract, but shall not exceed three years. The contract shall also state the terms of the employment.

The first three years of a contract issued to a newly employed administrator shall be considered a probationary period. In the event of termination of a probationary or nonprobationary contract, the board shall afford the administrator appropriate due process.

Administrators whose contracts will be recommended for termination, amendment or nonrenewal by the board will receive notice prior to April 15. The superintendent shall make a recommendation to the board for the termination of the administrator's contract.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to create a contract for each administrative position.

Administrators who wish to resign, to be released from a contract, or to retire, must comply with board personnel policies regarding the areas of resignation, release or retirement.

ADMINISTRATOR SALARY AND OTHER COMPENSATION

The board has complete discretion to set the salary of the administrators. It shall be the responsibility of the board to set the salary and benefits of the administrators at a level that will include consideration of, but not be limited to, the economic condition of the school district and the training, experience, skill, and demonstrated competence of the administrators. The salary shall be set at the beginning of each contract period.

In addition to the salary and benefits agreed upon, the administrator's actual and necessary expenses shall be paid by the school district when the administrator is performing work-related duties. The board shall approve the payment of other benefits or compensation over and above the administrator's contract. Approval of other benefits or items of an administrator's compensation shall be included in the records of the board in accordance with board policy.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES

Administrators shall be hired by the board to assist the superintendent in the day-to-day operations of the school district.

Each attendance center shall have a building principal responsible for the administration and operation of the attendance center. Each building principal, as chief administrator of the assigned attendance center, shall be responsible for the building and grounds, for the students and employees assigned to the attendance center, for school activities at the attendance center, for the education program offered in the attendance center, and the budget for the attendance center. The principal shall be considered the professional advisor to the superintendent in matters pertaining to the attendance center supervised by the principal. Although the principals serve under the direction of the superintendent, duties of the principal may include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Cooperate in the general organization and plan of procedure in the school under the principal's supervision;
2. Supervision of the teachers in the principal's attendance center;
3. Maintain the necessary records for carrying out delegated duties;
4. Work with the superintendent in rating, recommending and selecting supervised employees whenever possible;
5. Work with the superintendent in determining the education program to be offered and in arranging the schedules. As much of the schedule as possible should be made before school closes for summer vacation. In the matter of courses offered, the final approval rests with the superintendent who is in turn responsible to the board;
6. Ensure that proper care is taken of all school books, supplies, materials, equipment, furniture and facilities;
7. Instruct teachers to make a complete annual inventory of all school property contained in their individual rooms. This inventory shall be reviewed and filed with the board secretary;
8. Investigate excessive cases of absence or tardiness of students and notify the parents or guardians of unexcused absence or tardiness. All such cases should be reported to the superintendent;
9. Make such reports from time to time as the superintendent may require;
10. Maintain the regular schedule of school hours established by the board and make no temporary changes in the schedule without the consent of the superintendent;
11. Promptly notify the superintendent whenever ventilation, sanitation or heating of the building is unsatisfactory;
12. Contribute to the formation and implementation of general policies and procedures of the school;
13. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the superintendent of schools.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

This list of duties shall not act to limit the board's authority and responsibility over the position of the administrators. In executing these duties and others the board may delegate, the administrators shall consider the school district's financial condition as well as the needs of the students in the school district.

Cross Reference: 301 Administrative Structure

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION

The superintendent shall conduct an ongoing process of evaluating the administrators on their skills, abilities, and competence. At a minimum, the administrators will be evaluated annually. The goal of the formal evaluation process is to ensure that the educational program for the students is carried out, promote growth in effective administrative leadership for the school district, clarify the administrator's role as defined by the board and the superintendent, determine areas in need of improvement, clarify the immediate priorities of the responsibilities listed in the job description, and develop a working relationship between the superintendent and the administrator.

The superintendent is responsible for designing an administrator evaluation instrument. The formal evaluation shall include written criteria related to the job description. The superintendent, after receiving input from the administrators, shall present the formal evaluation instrument to the board for approval.

The formal evaluation shall also include an opportunity for the administrator and the superintendent to discuss the written criteria, the past year's performance and the future areas of growth. The evaluation shall be completed by the superintendent, signed by the administrator and filed in the administrator's personnel file.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to conduct a formal evaluation of all administrators prior to April 15.

This policy supports and does not preclude the ongoing informal evaluation of the administrator's skills, abilities and competence.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The board encourages the administrators to continue their professional growth by becoming involved in professional organizations, attending conferences, continuing their education, and participating in other professional activities.

It shall be the responsibility of the administrators to arrange their schedules in order to attend various conferences and events in which they are involved. Prior to attendance at an event, the administrator must receive approval from the superintendent. In the case where overnight travel or unusual expense is involved, the superintendent shall bring it to the attention of the board prior to the administrator attending the event.

The administrator shall report to the superintendent after an event.

The administrator may, with the approval of the Board, attend one (1) national meeting of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, American Association of School Administrators, or other organization on a bi-annual basis. Expense money shall be budgeted for this purpose.

Cross Reference: 302.06 Superintendent Professional Development
 402.08 Employee Travel Compensation

ADMINISTRATOR CIVIC ACTIVITIES

The board encourages the administrators to be involved in the school district community by belonging to community organizations, and by attending and participating in school district community activities.

It shall be the responsibility of the administrators to become involved in school district community activities and events. The board may include a lump sum amount as part of the administrator's compensation to be used specifically for paying the annual fees of the administrator for school district community activities and events if, in the board's judgment, the administrator's participation will further the public purpose of promoting and deriving support for the school district and public education in general. It shall be within the discretion of the board to pay annual fees for professional organizations and activities.

Cross Reference: 303.07 Superintendent Civic Activities

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATOR CONSULTING/OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

An administrative position is considered full-time employment. The board expects administrators to give the responsibilities of their positions in the school district precedence over other employment. An administrator may accept consulting or outside employment for pay as long as, in the judgment of the board and the superintendent, the work is conducted on the administrator's personal time and it does not interfere with the performance of the administrative duties contracted by the board.

The board reserves the right, however, to request the administrator cease the outside employment as a condition of continued employment. The board shall give the administrator thirty days notice to cease outside employment.

DEVELOPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Administrative regulations may be necessary to implement board policy. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations.

In developing the administrative regulations, the superintendent may consult with administrators or others likely to be affected by the regulations. Once the regulations are developed, employees, students and other members of the school district community shall be informed in a manner determined by the superintendent.

The board shall be kept informed of the administrative regulations utilized and their revisions. The board may review and recommend change of administrative regulations prior to their use in the school district if they are contrary to the intent of board policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to enforce administrative regulations.

Cross Reference: 205 School board Policy Process

MONITORING OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

The administrative regulations shall be monitored and revised when necessary. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to monitor and revise the administrative regulations.

The superintendent may rely on the board, administrators, employees, students, and other members of the school district community to inform the superintendent about the effect of and possible changes in the administrative regulations.

Cross Reference: 205 School Board Policy Process

HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTIVES

In order that the necessary board policies, regulations, school rules and procedures may be known by all staff members, patrons, students and parents affected, district administrators and principals are granted authority to issue staff and student/parent handbooks.

It is essential that the contents of all handbooks conform with district policies and regulations. It is also important that all handbooks bearing the name of the district or one of its schools be of a quality that reflects favorably on the district. The board, therefore, expects all handbooks to be approved by the board and/or superintendent or designee before publication.

The board will review and approve district personnel handbooks in order that the contents may be accorded the legal status of board-approved policy and regulation. The superintendent will use his/her judgment as to whether other specific handbooks need board approval. However, all handbooks published are to be made available to the board for informational purposes.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

ADMINISTRATOR CODE OF ETHICS

Administrators, as part of the educational leadership in the school district community, represent the views of the school district. Their actions, verbal and nonverbal, reflect the attitude and the beliefs of the school district. Therefore, administrators shall conduct themselves professionally and in a manner fitting to their position.

Each administrator shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy. Failure to act in accordance with this code of ethics or in a professional manner, in the judgment of the board, shall be grounds for discipline up to, and including, discharge.

The professional school administrator:

1. Upholds the honor and dignity of the profession in actions and relations with students, colleagues, board members and the public;
2. Obeys local, state and national laws; holds to high ethical and moral standards; and gives loyalty to this country and to the cause of democracy and liberty;
3. Accepts the responsibility to master and contribute to the growing body of specialized knowledge, concepts, and skills which characterize school administration as a profession;
4. Strives to provide the finest possible educational experiences and opportunities to the members of the school district community;
5. Seeks to preserve and enhance the prestige and status of the profession when applying for a position or entering into contractual agreements;
6. Carries out in good faith the policies duly adopted by the local board and the regulations of state authorities and renders professional service;
7. Disallows consideration of private gain or personal economic interest to affect the discharge of professional responsibilities;
8. Recognizes public schools are the public's business and seeks to keep the public informed about their schools; and,
9. Supports and practices the management team concept.

Cross Reference: 405 Employee Conduct and Appearance

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____