

# CSBA Sample Board Bylaw

Board Bylaws

BB 9230(a)

## ORIENTATION

Note: The following optional bylaw may be revised to reflect district practice.

### Board Candidate Orientation

Comment [WT1]: Moved to BB 9220

Note: CSBA's School Board Leadership publication is designed to assist Governing Board candidates and other community members by providing answers to frequently asked questions about school Board service, including Board roles and responsibilities, how to work effectively as a governance team, and requirements for becoming a Board member.

Pursuant to Elections Code 20440, when filing to run for public office, the county elections official presents each candidate with a voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices for the candidate to sign. For language regarding the Board's intent that candidates for the Board adhere to those fair campaign principles, see BB 9220 - Governing Board Elections.

The Governing Board desires to provide Board candidates with information that will enable them to understand the responsibilities and expectations of Board membership. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with general information about school programs, district operations, and Board responsibilities and the county election official's contact information.

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The Board encourages all candidates to attend public Board meetings during the period of their candidacy. Candidates shall have the same access as members of the public to district staff and information.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

### New Board Member Orientation

Note: The following optional bylaw may be revised to reflect district practice. In addition to providing new Governing Board members with information about district programs and operations, it is recommended that new Board members be provided information and professional development regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Board (see BB 9000 - Role of the Board) and professional governance standards agreed upon by the Board (see BB 9005 - Governance Standards). The provision of information to Board candidates regarding the district and/or Board responsibilities is addressed in BB 9220 - Governing Board Elections.

**ORIENTATION** (continued)

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of providing all newly elected or appointed Board members with support and information to assist them in becoming effective members of the Board. Incoming Board members shall be provided an orientation designed to build their knowledge of the district and an understanding of the responsibilities of their position. Such orientation may include the provision of information, support, and/or training related to Board functions, policies, protocols, and standards of conduct.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9220 - Governing Board Elections)

(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54952.2, if a majority of Board members congregate at the same time and location to hear or discuss matters within the jurisdiction of the Board, the meeting must be open to the public and proper notice provided; see BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices. The following optional paragraph provides for orientation meetings to be held with all members of the Board during a public Board meeting and may be revised to reflect district practice.

~~As early as possible following the election or appointment of Board members, one or more orientation sessions shall be held during open meeting(s) of the Board. The Board president and the Superintendent or designee shall develop an agenda for the meeting(s) and shall identify resources that may be useful for incoming Board members.~~

Comment [WT2]: Not current practice

(cf. 9121 - President)

~~The Board shall convene a meeting to provide an orientation and information to incoming Board members to assist them in understanding the Board's functions, policies, procedures, protocols, and agreed upon standards of conduct. Incoming Board members shall receive the district's policy manual and other materials related to the district and Board member responsibilities.~~

Note: The following **optional** paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Government Code 54952.7, the Board may require that a copy of the Brown Act be given to each member of the Board and any person elected to the Board who has not yet assumed the duties of office. Government Code 54952.1 states that persons elected to serve as Board members, even if they have not yet assumed office, are subject to the requirements of the Brown Act as soon as they are elected.

Upon their election **or appointment**, incoming Board members shall be provided a copy of the Brown Act and informed that, pursuant to Government Code 54952.1, they must conform to the Act's requirements as if they had already assumed office. **Additional information for incoming Board members may include, but is not limited to, Board bylaws related to the limits of individual Board member authority, the conduct of Board meetings, and other Board**

**operations; governance standards for ethical conduct; legal requirements**

BB 9230(c)

**ORIENTATION** (continued)

**related to conflict of interest and prohibited political activity; protocols for speaking with district staff, members of the public, and the media; and publications on effective governance practices.**

*(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*

*(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)*

*(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*

*(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

*(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)*

*(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

*(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)*

**In addition, the Superintendent may or designee shall provide incoming Board members with additional specific background and information regarding the district, including, but not limited to, the district's vision and goals statements, operations, and current challenges in areas that include, but are not limited to, student achievement, curriculum, finance, facilities, policy, human resources, and collective bargaining. local control and accountability plan and other comprehensive plans, student demographic data, student achievement data, district policy manual, district budget, and minutes of recent open Board meetings.**

*(cf. 0000 - Vision)*

*(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)*

*(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)*

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

**The Superintendent or designee may offer incoming Board members a tour of district schools and facilities, and may introduce them to district and school site administrators and other staff.**

~~Incoming members are encouraged to attend Board meetings and review agenda materials available to the public in order to become familiar with current issues facing the district.~~

**Note: See CSBA's web site for information about CSBA conferences and workshops that address the needs of new Board members, including its Orientation for New Trustees, Institute for New and First-Term Board Members, and other education opportunities related to governance basics.**

**Pursuant to Government Code 54952.2, a "meeting" subject to Brown Act requirements does not include the attendance of a majority of the Board's members at a conference or similar public gathering, provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business of a specific nature that is**

Attachment L- BB 9230 Orientation  
Use CSBA Sample with Additional Changes

within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. See BB 9240 - Board Training and BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices.

BB 9230(d)

**ORIENTATION** (continued)

Incoming members ~~also may be encouraged~~, at district expense and with approval of the Board, **to attend the California School Boards Association's Orientation for New Trustees, Institute for New and First-Term Board Members, and** workshops and conferences relevant to their individual needs ~~or to the needs of the individual member~~, the Board as a whole, or the district.

(cf. 9240 - Board Training)  
(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshops  
33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses; board member or member-elect

ELECTIONS CODE

13307 Candidate's statement

20440 Code of Fair Campaign Practices

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body

**54952.2 Open meeting laws; posting agenda; board actions**

54952.7 Copies of Brown Act to board members

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

School Board Leadership, 2007

Professional Governance Standards for School Boards, 2000

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2007**2009**

Guide to Effective Meetings, 2007

Maximizing School Board Leadership, 1996

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Becoming a Better Board Member: A Guide to Effective School Board Service, 2006

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Attachment L- BB 9230 Orientation  
Use CSBA Sample with Additional Changes

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