

Board Operations**Board Members****Board Member Authority and Responsibilities**

Board members are elected by the citizens of the District. While elected as individuals, the School Board acts collectively to govern the District as informed representatives of the citizenship. Board members act, on behalf of the citizens of the District, to ensure the District provides the best educational opportunities to maximize achievement of students of the District in accordance with the District's mission, vision, and strategic plan. Policies serve to indicate the manner in which the Board shall act in a situation that may or may not be explicitly established by law.

The authority of the Board lies in active participation in Board meetings and in fulfilling the duties as elected officials of the District. Individual members of the Board do not possess the powers that reside in the full Board of Education. The Board shall not be bound in any way by any statement and/or action on the part of an individual member or members.

Board members shall not personally investigate complaints or concerns brought to their attention by community members. Any Board member who receives a complaint regarding a District matter should refer it to the Superintendent or designee for study and resolution.

Individual Board Member Responsibilities:

- To become familiar and be informed about the mission, vision, and strategic plan of the District.
- To become familiar and be informed about state school laws, regulations of the Department of Public Instruction, Watertown Unified School District policies, programs, services, and fiscal management.
- To read advanced materials, attend, come prepared, and actively participate in all Board and committee meetings and functions of the Board.
- To work harmoniously with other Board members, administrators, and staff in the District
- To actively discuss, vote and act in the Board meetings impartially in the best interest of the District, and to support the action of the Board when a majority has voted for a course of action.
- To represent the Watertown Unified School District and the Board of Education to the public in a way to promote both interest and support.
- To refer complaints and concerns to the Superintendent and to abstain from individual counsel and action.
- Follow all Board policies paying special attention to the established code of ethics, conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.

Policy Approved: December 16, 1987

**Policy Revision: April 30, 2009
 December 16, 2013**