

## **BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY**

Because all powers of the board derived from the state statutes are granted in terms of action as a group, individual board members exercise authority over district affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal meeting of the board.

An individual board member will have authority to speak or act on behalf of the board only when the board, by vote, has delegated authority to an individual member.

It is contrary to the spirit of the statutes for any board member to individually give orders to any subordinates of the superintendent either publicly or privately.

The board will stress to its members, the district staff and the public that only the board acting as a whole has authority to take official action. Nothing in this policy prohibits a board member from expressing an opinion as an individual, but such should be indicated as personal, not board opinion. Each board member must be committed to reaching and supporting group decisions which represent majority positions.

All formal requests for informational reports or administrative action should be directed to the superintendent who, in turn, will place the matter on the board agenda for consideration by the entire board. However, it is understood that informal lines of communication exist to clarify issues.

Adopted 11/24/81  
Reviewed 05/24/88  
Revised 11/23/93  
Reviewed 09/08/98  
Reviewed 02/22/16

Legal References:  
SDCL 13-8-33 - Repealed

Cross Reference:  
KL - Public Complaints