



SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

POLICY DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2013
Time: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Place: SCCOE, Moreland Conference Room
1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose

1. Roll Call
2. Setting the Agenda
3. Hearing of persons desiring to address the subcommittee on policy issues not on the agenda.
4. Discussion Items:
 - a. Policy Review:
 - BB 9010 – Public Statements
 - BB 9130 – Board Committees
 - BB 9220 – Governing Board Elections
5. Setting of Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

Members:

Michael Chang, Chair, Vice President
Darcie Green, Board Member
Anna Song, Board Member

Alternate:

Julia Hoover-Smoot, Board Member

Recorder:

Monica Sanchez Lopez

Resource Staff:

Xavier De La Torre, Superintendent
Lee Alvis, SEIU
Rochelle Velazquez, SEIU
Don Renwick, ACE/CTA
Lisa Vieler, ACE/CTA
Toni Cordova, Chief Strategy Officer
Micaela Ochoa, Chief Business Officer
Angelica Ramsey, Chief Academic Officer
Philip Gordillo, Executive Director - HR
Kelly Calhoun, Chief Technology Officer

POLICY GUIDESHEET – PENDING REVIEW

10/2/13

BB 9010 - Public Statements

Bylaw updated to add concepts related to communicating the district's message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership, refraining from disclosing confidential information, and adhering to the same standards and protocols established for other Board communications when participating on social networking sites, blogs, or other electronic media.

BB 9130 - Board Committees (BB revised)

Bylaw updated to clarify applicability of the Brown Act to Board-created committees, describe the circumstances under which committees may meet in closed session, and reflect an Attorney General opinion that a committee created through a collective bargaining agreement is not a committee created by the board and thus is not necessarily subject to open meeting requirements. Bylaw also revised to specify decisions that will be made at the time a committee is established, address who is responsible for appointing committee members, and delete material re: board not obligated to provide for public comment at board meeting on matters that were open to public comment during meeting of board subcommittees (now addressed in BB 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials).

BB 9220 - Governing Board Elections (BB revised)

Bylaw updated to reflect **NEW LAW (AB 2410, 2012)** which provides that a person is ineligible to hold public office if he/she has been convicted of a felony involving bribery, offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of these crimes. Bylaw also adds section which addresses the methods of electing board members (i.e., by trustee area, at-large election, or at-large election but candidate resides in trustee area) and reflects the California Voting Rights Act which prohibits the use of the at-large voting method when its use prevents members of a protected class (voters of a minority race, color, or language group) from being elected to the board.

Santa Clara COE

Board Bylaw

Public Statements

BB 9010

Board Bylaws

Statements During County Board Meetings

The Santa Clara County Board of Education ("County Board") recognizes the rights of County Board members to freely express their views and encourages open discussion of issues during County Board meetings. The County Board believes that effective County Board members have a responsibility to express themselves, whether in agreement or disagreement with the County Board majority, in ways that promote the County Board's ability to effectively govern the Santa Clara County Office of Education ("SCCOE").

Before voting on any issue, all County Board members shall be encouraged to present whatever information or opinions they may feel is important to the matter at hand. The County Board shall fully consider all information and opinions so presented, so that each member may understand all aspects of the issue before the County Board makes its decision.

Statements Outside of County Board Meetings

When speaking to community groups, the media, or other members of the public, individual County Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the County Board. County Board members have a responsibility to identify personal opinion or analysis as such and not as the opinion or analysis of the County Board.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the County Board shall be made by the County Board president or, if appropriate, by the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools or other designated representative, at the direction of the County Board President. No individual County Board member shall make public statements or direct staff to promulgate any statement on behalf of the County Board through publications, electronic media, or other means that contravene the policies or actions of the County Board or that jeopardize the ability of the County Board to act effectively.

This policy in no way prohibits a County Board member, when not in attendance at a County Board meeting, from answering inquiries or questions from members of the public relating to County Board or SCCOE business, provided that the County Board member clarifies that he or she is expressing his or her own opinion or analysis and not that of the County Board unless such opinion or analysis is on record by the County Board.

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

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1040 Duties and responsibilities; county boards of education

GOVERNMENT CODE

54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

Bylaw SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
adopted: November 2, 2011 San Jose, California

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54960, the district attorney or any interested person can sue the Governing Board in order to stop or prevent violations of the Brown Act or to determine whether any Board rule or action which penalizes or otherwise discourages the expression of one or more of its members is valid or invalid under law. The following **optional** bylaw may be modified as appropriate.

The Governing Board recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the district, and their right to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding district issues, Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives to communicate its positions and to abide by established protocols.

Note: Many districts designate the Board president and/or Superintendent to communicate with the public on behalf of the district. Any district that has designated another position for this responsibility may revise the following paragraph to reflect district practice.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or other designated representative.

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)
(cf. 9121 - President)
(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

When speaking for the district, the Board encourages its spokespersons to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board's leadership.

Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54963)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

When speaking to community groups, members of the public, or the media, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board.

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)
(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous,

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

and professional manner and to model good behavior for district students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)
(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 California Public Records Act

54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

54963 Confidential information in closed session

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

Santa Clara COE

Board Bylaw

County Board Committees

BB 9130

Board Bylaws

The Santa Clara County Board of Education ("County Board") may establish County Board committees as necessary on matters within its jurisdiction.

The County Board shall determine the duties of the committee at the time of its appointment. County Board committees shall act in an advisory capacity only. When its duties have been completed, the committee shall be dissolved.

The County Board President shall appoint all committees with County Board approval. The Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools ("County Superintendent") or designee may serve as an advisor to any committee at the discretion of the County Board. If the County Superintendent or designee serves as advisor to a County Board committee not subject to the Brown Act, his or her presence will not subject the committee to the requirements of the Brown Act so long as he or she is not a voting member of the committee.

Whenever so charged, committees may actively seek input and participation by parents/guardians, staff, community members, and students and may consult with local public boards and agencies.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

Meetings and Notices

County Board committees shall provide public notice of their meetings and conduct these meetings in accordance with state open meeting laws. An agenda of any such committee shall be posted not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Meetings of advisory committees or standing committees for which an agenda is posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting pursuant to Government Code 54954.2, shall be considered, for purposes of the Brown Act, as regular meetings of the County Board. (Government Code 54954)

All County Board committees shall report their activities and recommendations to the County Board at an open session of the County Board, except in matters on which a closed session is required by law.

When a majority of the members of the County Board attend an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee, the County Board members who are not members of the standing committee shall attend only as observers. (Government Code 54952.2)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

County Board advisory committees composed solely of less than a quorum of the members of the County Board are not subject to open meeting laws unless they are standing committees that have a continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule established by the Board. (Government Code 54952) Standing committees with continuing

subject matter jurisdiction include but are not limited to those responsible for providing the County Board, at its request, with advice on finance, budget, audits, contracts, personnel matters within the County Board's jurisdiction, Board policy, governmental relations, curriculum development and program evaluation.

When a County Board committee composed exclusively of County Board members has provided for public comment on an item at a public meeting before or during the committee's consideration of the item, the County Board is not obliged to provide for public comment on the item at a subsequent County Board meeting. Public comment shall be afforded, however, if the County Board determines that the item has been substantially changed since it was heard by the committee. (Government Code 54954.3)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1040 Duties of county boards

1042 Additional powers

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

GOVERNMENT CODE

54952 Legislative body, definition

54952.2 Definition of meeting

54954 Time and place of regular meetings; special meetings; emergencies

54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 156 (1998)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 308 (1997)

79 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 69 (1996)

Bylaw SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
adopted: November 2, 2011 San Jose, California

BOARD COMMITTEES

Note: The following **optional** bylaw may be revised to reflect district practice. This bylaw addresses the establishment and operation of Governing Board subcommittees consisting of less than a quorum of the Board and other standing and advisory committees created by the Board. See BP/AR 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees for further information about committees that include members of the community and/or stakeholder groups, including examples of citizen advisory committees that are generally created by formal Board action. For information about committees created by the Superintendent or designee to advise the administration, see BP 2230 - Representative and Deliberative Groups.

The Governing Board may establish a committee whenever it determines that such a committee would benefit the district by providing diverse viewpoints, specialized knowledge or expertise, or increased efficiency. Such committees may be subcommittees of the Board or committees that include members of the community, staff, or other stakeholder groups.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 2230 - Representative and Deliberative Groups)
(cf. 9140 - Board Representatives)

Upon establishing a committee, the Board shall clearly define the committee's purpose, any timeline for completion of assigned responsibilities, any stakeholder groups or individuals to be represented on the committee, length of time that committee members are expected to serve, and expectations for reporting to the Board and/or the Superintendent or designee. Unless specifically authorized by the Board to act on its behalf, the committee shall act in an advisory capacity.

Except for subcommittees of the Board, committee members shall, as appropriate, be recommended by the Superintendent or designee and appointed by the Board president, subject to Board approval.

(cf. 9121 - President)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide committee members with information and assistance necessary for the fulfillment of the committee's charges, and may serve as a non-voting advisor to the committee at the discretion of the Board.

Whenever so charged, committees may actively seek input and participation by parents/guardians, staff, community, and students and may consult with local public boards and agencies.

Any committee not required by law may be dissolved when its duties or term has been completed or whenever the Board deems necessary.

BOARD COMMITTEES (continued)**Committee Meetings**

Note: Unless otherwise exempted by law, Government Code 54952 provides that open meeting laws (the Brown Act) apply to any commission, committee, board, or other legislative body created by formal action of the Board, regardless of whether that body is permanent or temporary, decision making or advisory; also see BP/AR 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees. These requirements include posting a meeting notice or agenda at least 72 hours before a regular meeting or 24 hours before a special meeting pursuant to Government Code 54954.2 and 54956; see BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices.

In Frazer v. Dixon Unified School District, the court held that the adoption of a Board policy that required the appointment of a curriculum committee to advise the Superintendent, and in turn the Board, was a committee created by "formal Board action" within the meaning of Government Code 54952. Therefore, the committee's meetings were subject to the Brown Act.

The district should consult legal counsel when questions arise regarding the applicability of Brown Act requirements to district or school committees.

Unless otherwise exempted by law, Board-created committees shall provide public notice of their meetings and conduct meetings in accordance with Government Code 54950-54963 (the Brown Act).

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

However, Board subcommittees composed solely of less than a quorum of the members of the Board are not subject to open meeting laws unless they are standing committees. Standing committees of the Board, irrespective of membership, are those that have a continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule established by action of the Board. (Government Code 54952)

Note: In 79 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 69 (1996), the Attorney General has clarified that open meeting laws apply if the standing committee has the responsibility of providing advice at the Board's request on budgets, audits, contracts, and personnel matters.

Standing committees with a continuing subject matter jurisdiction include, but are not limited to, those responsible for providing advice on budgets, audits, Board policy, contracts, and personnel matters at the Board's request.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3430 - Investing)

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54952.2, the Brown Act is not violated if Board members who are not members of a standing committee attend the committee meeting only as "observers." In 81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 156 (1998), the Attorney General clarified that those Board members attending the meeting as "observers" may not ask questions or make statements at the meeting and that they must sit in the areas designated for members of the public.

BOARD COMMITTEES (continued)

When a majority of the members of the Board attend an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee, the Board members who are not members of the standing committee shall attend only as observers. (Government Code 54952.2)

Whenever any advisory or standing committee, including a committee not otherwise subject to the Brown Act, posts a meeting agenda at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, that meeting shall be considered as a regular meeting of the Board for purposes of the Brown Act and therefore must be held within district boundaries unless otherwise authorized by law. (Government Code 54954)

Note: In 80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 308 (1997), the Attorney General determined that sessions of a district liaison council that was formed by the board to interview candidates for district superintendent and to make a recommendation to the board were not required to be open to the public. The Attorney General concluded that, because a legislative body is authorized under Government Code 54957 to hold closed sessions during a regular or special meeting to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee (see BB 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas), that authority also extends to committees that are delegated by the legislative body to perform related duties. The following paragraph reflects this opinion.

In addition, in 92 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 102, the Attorney General concluded that a joint labor management benefits committee that is a product of the collective bargaining process between labor and management and is implemented in a collective bargaining agreement is not a committee created by the board. Therefore, such a committee is not required to comply with the Brown Act and is authorized to hold closed sessions.

Committees may meet in a closed session during a regular or special meeting only for those purposes specifically authorized by law for closed sessions held by the Board.

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

BOARD COMMITTEES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 *Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*

35024 *Executive committee*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

35160.1 *Broad authority of school districts*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *The Brown Act, especially:*

54952 *Legislative body, definition*

54952.2 *Definition of meeting*

54954 *Time and place of regular meetings; special meetings; emergencies*

54954.3 *Opportunity for public to address legislative body*

54957 *Closed session purposes*

COURT DECISIONS

Frazer v. Dixon Unified School District, (1993) 18 Cal.App.4th 781

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

81 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 156 (1998)*

80 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 308 (1997)*

79 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 69 (1996)*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, 2009

WEB SITES

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

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

Santa Clara COE

Board Bylaw

County Board Elections

BB 9220

Board Bylaws

Any registered voter is eligible to be a Santa Clara County Board of Education ("County Board") member except the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools ("County Superintendent"), any member of his/her staff, or any employee of a school district within the jurisdiction of the County Board. (Education Code 1006)

The County Board shall consist of seven (7) members, each from a trustee area. (Education Code 1000)

Each member of the County Board shall be an elector of the trustee area which he/she represents and shall be elected by the electors of the trustee area in the manner prescribed by the Education and Election Codes. (Education Code 1000, 1007)

(cf. 9224 - Oath of Affirmation)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

Whenever possible, the County Board shall consolidate County Board elections with the local municipal or statewide primary or general elections. County Board election procedures shall be conducted in accordance with state and federal law.

(cf. 9110 - Terms of Office)

Campaign Conduct

In order to help protect the public's trust in the electoral process as well as the public's confidence in the County Board and the Santa Clara County Office of Education ("County Office"), the County Board encourages all candidates to sign and adhere to the principles in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices pursuant to Elections Code 20440.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

Payment for Statement of Qualifications

The County Office shall assume no part of the cost of printing, handling, translating, or mailing of candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307. As a condition of having candidate statements included in the voter's pamphlet, the County Office may require candidates

to pay their estimated pro rata share of these costs to the County Office in advance pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

Notification to County Election Official

On the 125th day prior to the day fixed for the election, the County Board Secretary or his/her designee shall deliver a notice, bearing the County Board Secretary's signature and the County Office seal, to the County elections official describing both of the following: (Elections Code 10509)

1. The elective offices of the County Board to be filled at the general election and which offices, if any, are for the balance of an unexpired term.
2. Whether the County Office or the candidate is to pay for the publication of a statement of qualifications pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

Length of Candidate's Statement of Qualifications

If any candidate for election to the County Board chooses to submit a statement of qualifications to be mailed to all registered voters, such statement shall be limited to no more than 200 words. (Elections Code 13307)

Tie Votes in Board Member Elections

Whenever a tie makes it impossible to determine which of two or more candidates has been elected to the County Board, the County Board shall immediately notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or their representatives should appear before the County Board. The County Board at that time shall determine the winner by lot. (Education Code 5016)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1006 Qualifications for holding office, county board of education

5000-5033 Elections

5220-5231 Elections

5300-5304 General provisions (conduct of elections)

5320-5329 Order and call of elections

5340-5345 Consolidation of elections

5360-5363 Election notice

5380 Compensation (of election officer)

5390 Qualifications of voters

5420-5426 Cost of elections

5440-5442 Miscellaneous provisions
7054 Use of district property
35107 Eligibility; school district employees
35177 Campaign expenditures or contributions
35239 Compensation of governing board member of districts with less than 70 ADA

ELECTIONS CODE

1302 Local elections, school district election
2201 Grounds for cancellation
4000-4004 Elections conducted wholly by mail
10400-10418 Consolidation of elections
10509 Notice of election by secretary
10600-10604 School district elections
13307 Candidate's statement
13309 Candidate's statement, indigency
20440 Code of Fair Campaign Practices

GOVERNMENT CODE

1021 Conviction of crime
1097 Illegal participation in public contract
12940 Nondiscrimination, Fair Employment and Housing Act
81000-91014 Political Reform Act

PENAL CODE

68 Bribes
74 Acceptance of gratuity
424 Embezzlement and falsification of accounts by public officers
661 Removal for neglect or violation of official duty

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 2, Section 2 Voters, qualifications
Article 7, Section 7 Conflicting offices
Article 7, Section 8 Disqualification from office

COURT DECISIONS

Randall v. Sorrell, (2006) 126 S.Ct. 2479

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 49 (2002)
83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 181 (2000)
81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 98 (1998)
69 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 290 (1986)

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Secretary of State's Office: <http://www.ss.ca.gov>
Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>
Institute for Local Self Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org/>

Bylaw SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
adopted: November 2, 2011 San Jose, California

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

Note: Education Code 35107 details eligibility for Governing Board membership as specified below. In 81 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 98 (1998), the Attorney General opined that the residency requirement in Education Code 35107 is a continuing requirement for holding the office during the entire term of the Board member.

Pursuant to Elections Code 20, as added by AB 2410 (Ch. 160, Statutes of 2012), any person who has been convicted of a felony involving bribery, offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or of conspiracy to commit any of these crimes, under California law or the law of any other state, the federal government, or a foreign government or country, is ineligible to be elected or to hold state or local public office unless he/she has received a pardon from the Governor or other authority as specified.

In addition, a person is ineligible to hold public office if he/she is not registered to vote. Elections Code 2201 lists the causes for cancelling an individual's voter registration and making him/her ineligible to hold public office as including legally established mental incompetency, proof that the person is presently imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a felony, or official notification that the voter is registered in another country or state.

Any person is eligible to be a member of the Governing Board, without further qualifications, if he/she is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting, or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or be a Board member except when he/she has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 35107, a district employee elected to serve on the district Board must resign his/her employment before being sworn into office as a Board member.

Pursuant to Education Code 1006, as added by AB 1662 (Ch. 499, Statutes of 2012), employees of a school district may now be eligible to run for the county board of education seat as long as their school district employer is not within the jurisdiction of the county board.

A district employee elected to the Board shall resign his/her employment before being sworn in or shall have his/her employment automatically terminated upon being sworn into office. (Education Code 35107)

(cf. 9224 - Oath of Affirmation)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

Note: Pursuant to Elections Code 1302 and 10404.5, districts are authorized to request consolidation of their Board elections with the local municipal or state primary or general elections. Whenever a change is made to a district's election cycle, the terms of office of incumbent Board members must be extended accordingly. In addition, before making any rule changes that may affect voting in their elections, districts within Kings, Monterey, and Yuba counties must obtain prior approval of the U.S. Department of Justice (preclearance), pursuant to 42 USC 1973-1973aa-6 (the federal Voting Rights Act). For these reasons, districts should explore the full ramifications of proposed changes to their election rules and should consult legal counsel when necessary.

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

To reduce costs associated with conducting elections, the Board may consolidate Board elections with the local municipal or statewide primary or general election. Board election procedures shall be conducted in accordance with state and federal law.

(cf. 9110 - Terms of Office)

Electing Board Members

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 5019, except in a school district governed by a board of education subject to a city or city and county charter, each County Committee on School District Organization is authorized, for the districts within its jurisdiction, to establish trustee areas, rearrange boundaries of trustee areas, increase, decrease, or abolish trustee areas, and recommend any of three alternate methods of electing Board members as specified below and in Education Code 5030. A proposal for any of the purposes described above may be initiated by the County Committee, by a petition filed by voters, or by the governing board of the school district. Option 1 below is for districts that use the "by trustee area" method to elect Board members (i.e., voters in each trustee area elect the candidate to represent their area), Option 2 is for districts that use the "at-large" method (i.e., all voters cast ballots for all candidates within the district), and Option 3 is for districts that use the "from trustee area" or "hybrid" method (i.e., Board members must reside within designated trustee areas but are elected by voters throughout the district "at-large").

Pursuant to Education Code 1000-1001, elections to fill county boards of education are required to be conducted based on the "by trustee area" voting method.

OPTION 1: (Election by trustee area)

The district is divided into trustee areas and each trustee area shall be represented by a Board member who resides in and is elected by voters residing within that trustee area. Trustee areas shall be balanced by population as required by state and federal law.

Note: To ensure equitable representation, Education Code 5019.5 requires any district using Option 1 to adjust its trustee area boundaries following each decennial federal census.

Prior to March 1 following the year in which the results of each decennial federal census are released, the Board shall adjust the boundaries of the district's trustee areas based on population figures as validated by the Population Research Unit of the Department of Finance. (Education Code 5019.5)

Note: Any district that selects Option 2 or 3 should ensure that its decision is consistent with Elections Code 14025-14032 (the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)) which prohibits the use of the "at-large" voting method for elections within jurisdictions with a history of "racially polarized voting" (i.e., difference between voters of a protected class and voters in the rest of the jurisdiction in the choice of candidates preferred). Any district seeking more information about the CVRA and its possible effects should consult legal counsel.

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)**OPTION 2: (Election using "at-large" voting method)**

Board members may reside anywhere within the district's boundaries and shall be elected by all voters in the district.

Note: The extent, if any, to which a district using the "from trustee area/hybrid" method (Option 3) is required to balance its trustee areas by population is unclear; see Dusch v. Davis. Any district using Option 3 should consult with legal counsel regarding whether to population balance its trustee areas.

OPTION 3: (Election from trustee area/hybrid method)

Each Board member shall reside within the trustee area that he/she represents but shall be elected by all voters in the district.

Note: The remainder of this section is for districts using Option 2 or 3 and may be revised to reflect district practice. Such districts should periodically monitor the demographics within their geographical boundaries to ensure that no violation of the CVRA occurs. Any district found in violation of the CVRA could be held liable for attorneys' fees and legal costs.

To ensure ongoing compliance with the California and federal Voting Rights Acts, the Board may review the district's Board election method to determine whether any modification is necessary due to changes in the district's population or any of its racial, color, or language minority group composition. The review shall be based on the Superintendent or designee's report to the Board after the release of each decennial federal census.

Note: Converting from an "at-large" (Option 1) to a "by trustee area" (Option 2) voting method involves complex issues of law regarding matters such as the redrawing of maps, required approvals, and transition dates. Any district that is considering switching to "by trustee area" election method should consult legal counsel as necessary.

If the Board determines that a change is necessary, it shall adopt a resolution at an open meeting specifying the change(s) and shall, in accordance with Education Code 5019 or other applicable provisions of law, obtain approval from the county committee on school district organization having jurisdiction over the district.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Campaign Conduct

Note: Education Code 35177 has long authorized boards, by resolution, to limit campaign expenditures and/or contributions for candidates in board elections. However, in June 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court held in Randall v. Sorrell that limits on campaign expenditures are unconstitutional and violate a candidate's right to free speech. The court did hold that limits on contributions to candidates could be constitutional if such limits are not overly restrictive, allow candidates to compete in the race, and do not operate to protect

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

incumbents. However, because Education Code 35177 provides no mechanism for the district to enforce any contribution limits set by the Board, such limits would be completely voluntary, and other candidates and the Board would have no remedy in the event of noncompliance by a candidate. It is strongly recommended that, before adopting voluntary contribution limits under the authority granted in Education Code 35177, the Board consult legal counsel in order to ensure that the district's limits satisfy legal restrictions.

Pursuant to Elections Code 20440, county election officials present each candidate running for public office with a voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices for the candidate to sign. The pledge states the candidate's intent to conduct his/her campaign openly and fairly and provides that the candidate may not use or permit negative prejudice based on another candidate's race, religion, physical or mental disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or any other prohibited category of discrimination listed in Government Code 12940. Although neither the district nor opposing candidates have authority to enforce the pledge if it is violated, a candidate's signature is a matter of public record. The following **optional** paragraph expresses the Board's desire that candidates for Board membership sign and abide by the terms of the pledge.

In order to help protect the public's trust in the electoral process as well as the public's confidence in the Board and district, the Board encourages all candidates to sign and adhere to the principles in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices pursuant to Elections Code 20440.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

Statement of Qualifications

Note: Prior to the beginning of the nominating period, Elections Code 13307 requires the Board to determine whether to have the district assume the costs of producing candidate statements of qualifications (Option 1 below) or to charge candidates for the costs (Option 1 below). In 85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. (2002), the Attorney General opined that Elections Code 13307, which authorizes the district to pay for the cost of distributing candidate statements, does not conflict with Education Code 7054, which prohibits the use of district resources for campaign purposes. According to the Attorney General, distributing campaign statements cannot be considered campaigning for any particular candidate in a partisan manner so as to conflict with the Education Code prohibition.

OPTION 1: In order to help defray the costs of campaigning for the Board, the district shall pay the cost of printing, handling, translating, and mailing candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

OPTION 2: The district shall assume no part of the cost of printing, handling, translating, or mailing of candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307. As a condition of having candidate statements included in the voter's pamphlet, the district may require candidates to pay their estimated pro rata share of these costs to the district in advance pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

Note: The following paragraph applies to both of the above options.

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

On the 125th day prior to the day fixed for the general district election, the Board secretary or his/her designee shall deliver a notice, bearing the secretary's signature and district seal, to the county elections official describing both of the following: (Elections Code 10509)

1. The elective offices of the district to be filled at the general election and which offices, if any, are for the balance of an unexpired term
2. Whether the district or the candidate is to pay for the publication of a statement of qualifications pursuant to Elections Code 13307

(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

Note: Pursuant to Elections Code 13307, the candidate's statement is limited to 200 words (Option 1 below), unless the Board has authorized an increase to a 400-word maximum (Option 2 below).

OPTION 1: Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 200 words. (Elections Code 13307)

OPTION 2: Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 400 words. (Elections Code 13307)

Tie Votes in Board Member Elections

Note: Education Code 5016 requires the Board to decide, before conducting any election, whether a potential tie will be resolved by lot or with a runoff election. Option 1 is for use by districts that will make this determination prior to each election. For districts that do not re-determine the method at each election, Option 2 provides for the use of lots to determine the winner in case of a tie in every election while Option 3 provides for a runoff election.

Education Code 5016 requires the County Superintendent of Schools to provide certification of a tie vote in an election to the district Board.

OPTION 1: Before each election, the Board shall establish whether a potential tie is to be resolved by lot or with a runoff election. (Education Code 5016)

After an election for which the Board has decided to resolve a tie by lot, the Board shall immediately notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or their representatives should appear before the Board. The Board at that time shall determine the winner by lot. (Education Code 5016)

After an election for which the Board has decided to resolve a tie with a runoff election, the Board shall schedule the runoff election in accordance with law. (Education Code 5016)

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

OPTION 2: Whenever a tie makes it impossible to determine which of two or more candidates has been elected to the Board, the Board shall immediately notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or their representatives should appear before the Board. The Board at that time shall determine the winner by lot. (Education Code 5016)

OPTION 3: Whenever a tie makes it impossible to determine which of two or more candidates has been elected to the Board, the Board shall schedule a runoff election in accordance with law. (Education Code 5016)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

1000 *Composition, and trustee area, county board of education*
 1006 *Qualifications for holding office, county board of education*
 5000-5033 *Elections*
 5220-5231 *Elections*
 5300-5304 *General provisions (conduct of elections)*
 5320-5329 *Order and call of elections*
 5340-5345 *Consolidation of elections*
 5360-5363 *Election notice*
 5380 *Compensation (of election officer)*
 5390 *Qualifications of voters*
 5420-5426 *Cost of elections*
 5440-5442 *Miscellaneous provisions*
 7054 *Use of district property*
 35107 *Eligibility; school district employees*
 35177 *Campaign expenditures or contributions*
 35239 *Compensation of governing board member of districts with less than 70 ADA*

ELECTIONS CODE

20 *Public office eligibility*
 1302 *Local elections, school district election*
 2201 *Grounds for cancellation*
 4000-4004 *Elections conducted wholly by mail*
 10400-10418 *Consolidation of elections*
 10509 *Notice of election by secretary*
 10600-10604 *School district elections*
 13307 *Candidate's statement*
 13309 *Candidate's statement, indigence*
 14025-14032 *California Voting Rights Act*
 20440 *Code of Fair Campaign Practices*

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

GOVERNMENT CODE

1021 Conviction of crime

1097 Illegal participation in public contract

12940 Nondiscrimination, Fair Employment and Housing Act

81000-91014 Political Reform Act

PENAL CODE

68 Bribes

74 Acceptance of gratuity

424 Embezzlement and falsification of accounts by public officers

661 Removal for neglect or violation of official duty

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 2, Section 2 Voters, qualifications

Article 7, Section 7 Conflicting offices

Article 7, Section 8 Disqualification from office

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1973-1973aa-6 Voting Rights Act

COURT DECISIONS

Rev v. Madera Unified School District, (2012) 138 Cal. Rptr. 3d 192

Randall v. Sorrell, (2006) 126 S.Ct. 2479

Sanchez v. City of Modesto, (2006) 51 Cal.Rptr.3d 821

Dusch v. Davis, (1967) 387 U.S. 112

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 49 (2002)

83 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 181 (2000)

81 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 98 (1998)

69 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 290 (1986)

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

California Secretary of State's Office: <http://www.ss.ca.gov>

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

Institute for Local Self Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>