

#### **Member Authority and Responsibility (A-4)**

The School Board has the authority to act only when a quorum is present at organizational, regular, or special meetings. An individual Board member exercises the authority and responsibility of his/her position only when the Board is in legal session or when acting within his/her authority as an officer of the board. The board will not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of any individual Board member at other times except when such statement or action is specifically authorized by the Board.

However, the public thinks of a Board member as a Board member twenty-four hours a day. The member's own interest and desire to serve the school community through membership of the Board continues even when the Board is not in session. The public has a right to expect a Board member to discuss school matters with understanding, and a Board member has a right to expect access to information which makes it possible for him/her to be informed about district affairs. Some information may come to the Board member in conversations with the public, students, parents, or district employees. Additional information will come from bulletins and publications from superintendent and staff. When a Board member is seeking information about a specific district problem, he/she may ask the superintendent to prepare a report on the matter with the help of the staff.

At times a person or group of persons may confront a single Board member with a problem or complaint which should be handled by the superintendent or a member of the staff. Each Board member must decide how much time he/she can spend on the problem or complaint and what the demands of courtesy should be in each case. However, the Board policy in such cases should be clear to all - no member, nor the Board itself, will officially consider or act on such district problems or complaints unless they have been reviewed by the superintendent of schools.

Adopted: February, 11, 1993