

New Board Member Orientation

A new Board member or a member-elect of the school unit shall be afforded the fullest measures of courtesy and cooperation by the Board and staff. Every feasible effort shall be made to assist the new member to become fully informed about the Board's functions, policies, procedures and current issues.

- A. In the interim between appointment/election and actually assuming office, the new member will be invited to attend meetings and functions of the Board and is to receive reports and communications normally sent to Board members.
- B. In the interim between appointment/election and actually assuming office, the new member will be provided a mentor who will be available to review the RSU #3 Board Handbook and provide guidance for the orientation to the RSU #3 Board.
- C. New members will be encouraged to attend appropriate out-of-district orientation and boardmanship workshops. Activities involving the possible reimbursement of expenses should be cleared first with the Board Chair or Superintendent.
- D. The new member is to be provided with copies or internet links of all appropriate publications and aids: the Board policy manual and publications of the national and state school boards associations, including the MSBA handbook.
- E. An orientation session and/or board workshop is to be scheduled and conducted by the Chair and the Superintendent for any new Board member(s) as soon as practical. Ample time is to be provided to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Board and individual along with the basic ways the Board functions, general information about the school system, and resources which are available. All Board members are to be invited to the orientation session and encouraged to attend. The orientation session and/or board workshop should serve as a useful review of basic boardmanship concepts for experienced members as they provide information and counsel to new members.
- F. The Board chair and members of the administrative staff will also confer with the new members as necessary on special problems or concerns. Specific time should be scheduled (which may be included in the orientation session) with the Superintendent for personnel and school management practices, Assistant Superintendent for curriculum and assessment practices and Business Manager for school funding and monthly fiscal statements.

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