**WALWORTH POLICY: 161**

**BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY**

All powers of the Board lie in its action as a group at legally constituted meetings of the Board of Education. In performing these duties, individual Board members exercise their authority over District affairs only as they vote to take formal action at a legal meeting of the Board of Education. And, in other instances, an individual Board member, including the Board President, shall have power only when the Board by vote, has delegated authority to him/her.

Individual Board members should refrain from responding to specific concerns or requests until they have been thoroughly investigated and reported on by the District Administrator. Whenever a concern is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as in individual, it will be referred to the District Administrator for study and possible solution whenever advisable to do so except if the concern is against the District Administrator. Refer to Walworth Policy 870 and Administrative Regulations 870.1 with regard to concerns against the District Administrator.

A Board member serves the community even when the Board of Education is not in session, including discussing school matters with understanding, listening to constituents, and directing concerns through the proper communication channels. The public has a right to expect a Board member to be able to discuss school matters with understanding. However, the public and District staff must be made aware that only the Board of Education has authority to take action. The Board is not bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of an individual board member.

Walworth Joint School District #1 does not discriminate in admissions to any school, class, program, or activity on the basis of sex, gender identification, race, national origin, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, learning, emotional, or mental disability. All discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:** Sections 118.13

 Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 9.03

**CROSS REFERENCE**: Walworth Policy 870

**POLICY ADOPTED:** October 21, 1991

**POLICY REVISED:** March 16, 1998

 August 25, 2014

July 22, 2019