

Bylaws

Egg Harbor Township Board of Education

0146 BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

A Board member does not possess individually the authority and powers that reside in the Board of Education. No Board member by virtue of his/her office shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the operation of the school district or as an individual command the services of any school district employee.

Release of Information

Board member access to public, personnel, and student records shall be governed by law and by the provisions of Policy Nos. 8310, 8320, and 8330.

Confidential information to which a Board member becomes privy as a result of his or her office shall be used only for the purpose of helping the member discharge his or her responsibilities as Board member. No Board member shall reveal information contained in a confidential record or received during a duly convened private session of the Board except when that information has been released to the public by the Board.

Access to School Buildings

Any Board member of the Egg Harbor Township Public School System may have access to any building in the school district as a member of the public. Board Members that want to visit facilities as a Board Member shall make an appointment through the Superintendent. Such visits shall be regarded as informal expressions of interest in school affairs and not as "inspections" or visits for supervisory or administrative purposes.

Official visits by Board members will be carried on only under Board authorization and with full knowledge of staff, including the Superintendent, Principals, and other supervisors.

The intended purpose of these rules is to provide a framework within which all Board members and employees may comfortably function while carrying out their charged responsibilities.

1. Because all powers of the Board lie in its action as a group, individual Board members exercise their authority over district affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal meeting of the Board.
2. The Board member shall report directly to the person in charge of the building giving some indication as to the nature and duration of the visit.
3. Requests to visit a class while in session shall be arranged through the Principal. If the Principal is available, it is strongly recommended that he accompany the Board

member during the classroom visitation period. Thus, the Principal will be immediately available to explain classroom events and to answer the Board member's questions.

4. Recognizing that the Superintendent has general supervision over the schools under the rules and regulations of the State Board and that they are the chief executive officer of the Egg Harbor Township Schools, any concerns or questions arising out of the visitation to the schools should be conveyed to the Superintendent by the Board member(s). The Superintendent may review these concerns or questions with the Principal.
5. All administrative personnel are charged with implementing the policy in both letter and spirit. Administrators are to recognize that Board members are citizens who have accepted the responsibility and obligation of maintaining and supporting a thorough and efficient system of instruction for the children in our community.

Public Expressions

Board members are entitled to express themselves publicly on any matter, including issues involving the Board and the school district. Individual Board members cannot, however, express the position of the Board except as expressly authorized, in accordance with Board Policy No. 9120. A Board member shall not represent his or her personal opinion as the position of the Board, shall follow Bylaw 169 and shall include in all formal expressions in which his or her Board affiliation is likely to be recognized, such as letters to government officials or newspapers, speeches to organizations, and the like, a statement that the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 10/22/2002

Revised: 2/23/2016, 02/26/2019, 05/24/2022