

SOUTH CAROLINA  
SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

2018  
NEW BOARD  
ORIENTATION

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# About SCSBA

*New Board Orientation*

*February 15, 2018*

**Scott T. Price**  
*SCSBA Executive Director*

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## SC School Boards Association Services

- On-site Board Training
- Policy and Legal Services
- Legislative and Advocacy Services
- Statewide Conferences
- SCSBIT - Insurance Trust

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# Understanding Roles and Responsibilities

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# Board-Superintendent Relationship

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## Your School District's Education Leadership Team

*The board and the superintendent*

To be effective, we start with agreeing on the work of the board versus the work of the superintendent.

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## Governing and managing

- Policy adoption is the function of the board
- Policy implementation is the function of the superintendent

*Stay on your page!!*

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## BOARD – SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONSHIP

The superintendent is the CEO of the board

*In a sense, the superintendent is a “member”  
of the board ... with limits*

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## BOARD – SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONSHIP

- There is nothing more important than both parties dealing with each other in an *ethical, honest, straight-forward, open-and-above-board* manner
- A knowledge of what each can reasonably expect of the other can help substantially in promoting sound working relationships

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# Roles and Responsibilities

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## Board Powers and Duties (BBA)

- Policymaking...adoption of policy
- Executive...hold the supt. accountable
- Quasi-judicial...a court of appeals
- Appraisal...evaluate policy effectiveness
- Planning...continuous improvement
- Interpretation...being the link to citizens
- Operational...effective board meetings
- Budget...providing necessary resources
- Reviewing action...the final authority
- Visits to schools...use proper protocol



## Board's job versus Superintendent's job (BDD)

### School Board

- Selects Superintendent
- Sets policy
- Adopts budget
- Approves organization
- Approves personnel matters
- Functions as a board only
- Staff matters through Supt.
- Acts as a court of appeals
- Adopts curriculum

### Superintendent

- Selects staff
- Recommends and implements
- Proposes and administers
- Proposes organization
- Recommends personnel matters
- Deals with the board as a whole
- Staff matters through Supt.
- Actions based on policy
- Recommends curriculum



In short ...

Boards govern

Superintendents manage

# What about individual board members?

## BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY (BBA, BBAA)

- The power of individual board members exists exclusively in their action as a group.
- Individual board members, including the chair, have only such authority as delegated by board vote or policy provision.
- The board and its members deal with administrative services through the superintendent and should not give orders to any subordinates (of the superintendent) either publicly or privately.

## BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY (BCA *code of ethics*)

- The board will not be bound in any way by actions or statements of an individual.
- Individual board members making information requests to the superintendent.
- The board officers may, when appropriate, counsel individual members who are acting outside his/her authority and responsibilities, or abusing his/her privileges.

The board is a “committee of the whole.”

You have no more authority  
than any other member  
of the public.



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It is not your job to “fix” things

***You have to follow the proper chain of command!***

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The problem is...

***Your constituents don't know that!***

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## Memorize this statement!

*This problem could end up requiring board action, and if I am involved in it at this level, I will be unable to act on it as a member of the board because it could be a violation of due process.*

*You really need to go through the proper channels.*

*(See, policy BBA, Board Powers and Duties; BC, Board Member Conduct)*

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## Advocates for Public Education

## Credible sources of Information

- 49% give local public schools an A or B grade, matching its average since 1999 (2017 PDK)
- 62% among public school parents (PDK)
- Public schools nationally are graded more severely – 24% of respondents give an A or B grade (PDK)
- Public trust in government at record low – divided sharply along partisan lines, but higher for public education – up to 36% from 29% (2017 Pew Trust)
- Trust in media at an all-time low (Pew) – direct communications from school higher than news media – 3.8 – parent; 3.5 – nonparent on a scale of 1 – 4 (NSPRA)

## Advocacy “Big Picture” (Policy BJ)

- Most board members want the same thing: improve educational outcomes for all students in their district.
- We don’t always agree on the same things; HOWEVER, when it comes to advocacy we MUST be on the same page.
- Accurate, timely, and understandable communication is a necessity.

## Advocacy: Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** develop a working relationship with your legislative delegation.
- **Don't** go to war with the delegation because you didn't get what you wanted.
- **Do** give as much access as possible to local media, as well as provide them leads on the district's successes.
- **Don't** hide from the media or make it hard for them to report on what is going on in the district.

## Advocacy: Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** try to insure the district speaks with one voice and hopefully through one staff member and one board member.
- **Don't** present a divided front to the public or call each other out.
- **Do** communicate often to parents and stakeholders. Give them information that is easy to understand as well as easy to access.
- **Don't** forget that the parents are customers of the district and need to be involved with every aspect of advocacy.

## Working in the Sunshine

*SC Freedom of Information Act*



## Freedom of Information Act

*The purpose and intent of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act is to ensure the performance of public business in an open and public manner.*

*SC Code § 30-4-15*

## Open Meetings

- **Notice**

requirements for regular, called, special or reschedule meetings

- **Agenda**

Posting and making changes

- **Closed meetings (executive session)**

\*\* Board members/invited persons duty bound not to disclose discussions! (see, BC, BEC)

## Good governance? Overstepping? Bad idea?

A board member posts a question on Facebook asking for input on a high school English teacher's behavior/action.

She states in the post that her daughter is upset because of the way the teacher runs her classroom and wants to know if others are having the same concerns.

She goes to the superintendent with the FB comments/concerns and says she wants something to change.

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## Good governance? Overstepping? Bad idea?

A board member writes a weekly blog about life in rural South Carolina.

In his most recent blog, he criticized the district's actions.

He states that the board voted in favor of the actions, but that he disagrees and thinks the vote should have gone the other way.

In the blog he is asking to hear from others who support his take on the issue so he can continue to let the superintendent know his feelings.

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## Good governance? Overstepping? Bad idea?

A classified job has been posted properly, per district policy.

A board member calls the superintendent to advocate for the hiring of a specific individual stating that they are a good person and in need of a job.

They feel that since they are on the board they should have a say in the hiring of staff.

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## Good governance? Overstepping? Bad idea?

The board held an executive session last week dealing with a student.

This week at the post office a community member approached you and asked you a specific question about something that was discussed in the executive session.

You call the board chair and the superintendent to tell them that there has been a breach of confidentiality and you want them to know.

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## Questions

Thank you!