



Responsible Office: Office of the General Counsel

BOARD POLICY 9088

TRUSTEE-SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS AND SUPERINTENDENT SUPPORT OF TRUSTEES

PURPOSE

The Washoe County School District (District) Board of Trustees (Board) adopts this policy to establish the relationship between the Board, individual members of the Board, and the Superintendent of Schools (Superintendent).

POLICY

1. Trustee-Superintendent Relationship. Only official actions of the Board are binding on the Superintendent. Board authority rests with the whole Board. Individual Trustees possess no individual authority.
 - a. Decisions or directives of individual Board members, Board leadership, or public bodies are not binding on the Superintendent.
 - b. In the case of a Board member, Board members, or public bodies requesting reports, information assistance or employee action without explicit Board approval, the Superintendent shall obtain Board approval when such requests, in the Superintendent's opinion, have already been provided, are outside the proper authority or role of the requester, or require a material amount of staff time or funds to fulfill.
 - i. In cases where a Trustee requests reports, information, assistance, or employee action without explicit Superintendent approval, the employee is directed to report the request immediately to the Superintendent or their designee, and not follow through with such request until directed to do so by the Superintendent.
 - ii. If the Superintendent does not agree with the request of an individual Board member to create reports or commit employee time and energy, the Board member has the option to accept that decision or follow:
 1. The guidelines as described in Board Policy 9110(2)(b): Preparation of Agenda and Support Materials in order to place the request as an action item on a regular Board meeting

agenda; or

2. The guidelines as described in Board Policy 9110(2)(e): Adding Agenda Items.
2. Trustee Support. The Superintendent is the Board’s only link to operational achievement and conduct so that all authority and accountability of staff, as far as the Board is concerned, is considered the authority and accountability of the Superintendent.
 - a. Accordingly, except for the Board office staff, Superintendent’s liaison to the Board of Trustees, the Board may communicate with, but generally shall not give instructions to or request reports, information or actions from persons who report directly to the Superintendent, except as designated in the following services offered to the Board, by Board staff such as District information, constituent meetings, town hall meetings, constituent contacts, elected official contacts, as well as day-to-day operational needs for services such as mail, IT, calendaring, conference calls, and similar business practices.
 - b. The Board President is responsible for assisting the Superintendent if a Trustee’s request, in the opinion of the Superintendent, exceeds the reasonable services provided by staff.
 - c. Trustees are prohibited from requesting support from any member of staff for personal business, political activity (as defined in Board Policy 1310), or any other activity not related to District business.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This policy reflects the goals of the District’s Strategic Plan and aligns with the governing documents of the District.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
10/25/2016	1.0	Adopted
7/7/2020	2.0	Revised to align to template adopted by Board of Trustees in compliance with Board Policy 9070; revised per Board request related to hiring of new superintendent.