

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff, Students

Board/Staff Communications

The Somers Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain open communication between itself and the staff. Essentially, communications with staff deal with three general areas: administration, policy, and philosophy. While the board recognizes the necessity for board/staff communications, it also recognizes that administrative matters must be dealt with through its chief administrator. Hence, the basic line of communication for administrative matters shall be through the superintendent.

1. Staff Communications to the Board

All formal reports to the board or any board committee from administrators, supervisors, teachers, or other staff members shall be submitted through the superintendent. This necessary procedure shall not be construed as denying the right of any employee to appeal to the board from administrative decisions on important matters, provided that the superintendent shall have been notified of the forthcoming appeal and that it is processed in accordance with the board's policy on complaints and grievances. Staff members are also reminded that board meetings are public meetings. As such, they provide an excellent opportunity to observe and participate firsthand in board deliberations on problems of staff concern.

2. Board Communications to Staff

All official communications of policies and directives will be communicated to staff members through the superintendent, and the superintendent will employ all such media as are appropriate to keep staff fully informed of the board's problems, concerns, and actions.

3. Visits to Schools

Individual board members interested in visiting schools or classrooms will make arrangements for visitations through the administrators of the various schools. Such visits shall be regarded as informal expressions of interest in school affairs and not as "inspections" or visits for supervisory or administrative purposes.

~~4. Board Liaisons~~

~~The chairperson of the Board of Education may assign board members to staff teams as board liaisons at the next regular board meeting following the annual~~

~~reorganization meeting. Board members may meet periodically with those staffing groups to which he/she may be assigned. The purpose of board liaisons is to foster positive relations between board and staff members. Those visits are designed to be opportunities for the board and staff members to share what is currently of interest to any member of either group. Items of concern should be directed through the appropriate chain of command, ultimately ending with the Board of Education. Individual board members must remember that they have no special authority except when they are convened at a legal meeting of the board.~~

Adopted: January 10, 2000