

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES

TITLE: MEMBERSHIP

ADOPTED: April 14, 2010

REVISED:

	004. MEMBERSHIP
	Section 1. <u>Number</u>
SC 303	The Board shall consist of nine (9) members.
SC 1081	The Superintendent shall have a seat on the Board and the right to speak on all matters, but not the right to vote.
	Section 2. <u>Qualifications</u>
	Each member of the Board shall meet the following qualifications:
SC 322	a. Be of good moral character, be at least eighteen (18) years of age, have been a resident of the district for at least one (1) year prior to the date of his/her election or appointment, and not be a holder of any office or position as specified in Section 322 of the School Code; nor shall the individual be a member of the municipal council.
SC 323	b. Shall not have been removed from any office of trust under federal, state or local laws for any malfeasance in such office.
SC 324	c. Shall not be engaged in a business transaction with the school district, be employed by the school district, or receive pay for services from the school district, except as provided by law.
SC 321	d. Shall take and subscribe to the oath or affirmation prescribed by statute before entering the duties of the office.
65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 1102, 1104, 1105 Title 51 Sec. 15.2, 15.3	e. Shall file a statement of financial interests with the State Ethics Commission before taking the oath of office or entering upon his/her duties and annually by May 1.

<p>SC 301 et seq</p>	<p>Section 3. <u>Election</u></p> <p>Election of members of the Board shall be in accordance with law.</p>
<p>SC 315, 316, 317, 318, 319 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq</p>	<p>Section 4. <u>Vacancies</u></p> <p>A vacancy shall occur by reason of death, resignation, removal from a district or region, or otherwise. Such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the Sunshine Act and by appointment by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the vacancy. The Board member so appointed shall serve until the first Monday in December after the first municipal election occurring more than sixty (60) days following his/her appointment. When a majority of the memberships are vacant, such vacancies shall be filled by the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County.</p>
<p>SC 303, 315</p>	<p>Section 5. <u>Term</u></p> <p>The term of office of each Board member shall be four (4) years and shall expire on the first Monday of December, except that the term of a Board member appointed to fill a vacancy shall expire on the first Monday of December after the municipal election occurring more than sixty (60) days after his/her appointment. The term of a Board member elected to an unexpired term shall expire at the termination of that term.</p>
<p>SC 315</p>	<p>Section 6. <u>Removal</u></p> <p>Whenever a Board member is no longer a resident of Muhlenberg School District or the region s/he represents, his/her eligibility to serve on the Board shall cease.</p> <p>The removal of a Board member who resigns shall become effective upon the presentation of the resignation to the Board President and upon the date specified.</p>
<p>SC 319 Pol. 006</p>	<p>A Board member who neglects or refuses to attend two (2) successive regular meetings of the Board, unless detained by sickness or prevented by necessary absence from the district, or if in attendance at any meeting neglects or refuses to act in his/her official capacity as a school director, may be removed from his/her office, with prior notice, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board.</p>
<p>SC 319 Pol. 006</p>	<p>If a person elected or appointed as a Board member, having been notified, shall refuse or neglect to qualify as such director, the remaining members may, within ten (10) days following the beginning of his/her term of office, declare said office vacant on the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board.</p>

<p>SC 516.1</p>	<p>Section 7. <u>Expenses</u></p> <p>Board members, a nonmember Board Secretary, and solicitor(s) shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred as delegates to any state convention or association of school directors' convention held within the state, or for necessary expenses incurred in attendance authorized by the Board at any other meeting held within the state or at an educational convention out-of-state. All such expenses shall be itemized and made available for public inspection at the next succeeding Board meeting.</p> <p>No member shall be reimbursed for more than two (2) out-of-state meetings in one (1) school year.</p> <p>Expenses incurred for the personal convenience or entertainment of a Board member during the conduct of school district business shall not be eligible for reimbursement.</p> <p>No reimbursement shall be made for any expense(s) unless approved in advance in accordance with administrative regulations established by the Superintendent, documented and explained on the district issued personal expense form; supported by an itemized, original receipt or receipts; and directly related to the approved event and necessary for the conduct of district business. The Superintendent shall have the sole authority in determining whether an expense is reasonable and necessary for the conduct of district business.</p> <p>Should the Board member not agree with the decision of the Superintendent, s/he may request the Board, in public session, review and approve the request. The Board shall have available the information about the expense(s) documented and explained on the district issued personal expense form; supported by an itemized, original receipt or receipts. Any decision of the Board shall be final.</p> <p>Section 8. <u>Orientation</u></p> <p>The Board believes that the preparation of each Board member for the performance of duties is essential to the effectiveness of the Board's functioning. The Board shall encourage each new Board member to understand the functions of the Board, acquire knowledge of matters related to the operation of the schools, and review Board procedures and policies.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Board shall give to each new Board member, no later than his/her first regular meeting, for use during his/her term on the Board the following items:</p>
<p>SC 519</p>	<p>a. Access to a copy of the School Code.</p>

Pol. 901	<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. A copy of the Board Policy Manual in paper or electronic format.c. A copy of the district Administrative Regulations Manual.d. The current budget statement, audit report and related fiscal materials.e. The current Strategic Plan. <p>Each new Board member shall be invited to meet with the Board President, Superintendent, and other members of the school staff to discuss Board functions, procedures and policy.</p> <p>New Board member orientation shall also include attendance at workshops for new Board members conducted by state and area school board associations.</p> <p>Section 9. <u>Board Member Education/Training</u></p> <p>The Board places a high priority on the importance of a planned and continuing program of inservice education and training for its members. The purpose of the planned program shall be to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the Board's governance and leadership.</p> <p>The Board, in conjunction with the Superintendent, shall plan specific inservice education programs and activities designed to assist Board members in their efforts to improve their skills as policy-making leaders; expand their knowledge about issues, programs, and initiatives affecting the district's educational programs and student achievement; and deepen their insights into the nature of leadership, governance and community engagement.</p> <p>The school community shall be kept informed about the Board's continuing inservice education and training and the anticipated short and long-term benefits to the district and its schools.</p> <p>The Board shall annually budget funds to support its planned program of inservice education and training.</p> <p>The Board establishes the following activities as the basis for its planned program of inservice education and training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Participation in School Board conferences, workshops and conventions.b. District-sponsored inservice education and training programs designed to meet Board needs.
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<p>SC 516, 516.1</p>	<p>c. Subscriptions to publications addressed to Board member concerns.</p> <p>d. Maintenance of resources and reference materials accessible to Board members.</p> <p>Section 10. <u>Conference Attendance</u></p> <p>In keeping with its stated priority on the importance of continuing inservice education and training for its members, the Board encourages the participation of all members at appropriate School Board conferences, workshops, and conventions. In order to control both the investment of time and expenditure of funds necessary to implement this planned program, the Board establishes the following guidelines:</p> <p>a. The Board shall identify annually the issues, objectives, and cost benefits that can be ascribed to participation by Board members in conferences, workshops and conventions.</p> <p>b. Each Board member shall receive Board approval prior to attending a conference, workshop or convention at Board expense.</p> <p>c. Funds for conference attendance shall be budgeted on an annual basis.</p> <p>d. When a conference, workshop or convention is not attended by the full Board, those who do participate shall share information, recommendations and materials acquired at the meeting that will be beneficial to the school district.</p>
<p>Pol. 004</p>	<p>e. Reimbursement to Board members for their travel expenses shall be in accordance with Board procedures and policy and administrative regulations.</p>
<p>SC 321</p>	<p>f. Reimbursement shall be limited to actual expenses incurred, and shall not include or be construed to include compensation to individual Board members.</p> <p>Section 11. <u>Student Representation</u></p> <p>The Board authorizes student representation on the Board in order to facilitate effective communication and to provide an opportunity for students to participate in school governance.</p> <p>The student representative shall have a seat on the Board for public meetings and the right to speak, but shall not have the right to vote.</p>

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 301, 303, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 321, 322, 323, 324, 516, 516.1, 519, 1081

Sunshine Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 701 et seq.

Public Officials and Employee Ethics Act – 65 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 1101 et seq.

State Ethics Commission Regulations – 51 PA Code Sec. 15.2, 15.3

Board Policy – 004, 006, 331, 901