

BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

A. Meetings

The Rolla Board of Education has recently been meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month. Usually, the meetings are held in the D. Kent Administration Center at 500A Forum Drive. These meetings are televised live. Occasionally, the meetings are held in a school within the District to enable more citizen participation and for information for the Board. Work-study sessions and special meetings may be called as needed.

Sometimes the Board of Education will elect to change the date of a Board of Education meeting. These changes are voted upon by the Board.

As a candidate of the Rolla Board of Education you will receive a packet for each Board of Education meeting. You are invited and encouraged to attend.

B. Legal Basis

Public education is a state function in the United States. Missouri's constitution mandates the establishment of a free public school system and there are many laws which help implement this. The power of the operational control of the school is delegated to the local Board of Education, making school districts one of the areas of government with the most "local control."

C. Authority of Members

Board Members have authority only when acting as a body regularly in session. The Board may not be bound in any way by any statement or action by an individual member of the Board, except when such statement or action is in accordance with specific action or instruction by the Board.

D. Functions

The Board of Education, like most levels of government, has three board functions in meeting its legal responsibilities:

1. Legislative or Policy Making

The Board is the legislative authority and is in control of the schools. It adopts general policies and may act directly in matters not specifically covered by policy.

2. Executive

The Board of Education places its policy in operation by delegating this to its executive officer, the superintendent of schools.

3. *Evaluation*

This function involves an evaluation of the educational program based on the policies as adopted by the Board of Education.

E. Preparation

Advance preparation for each meeting of the Board of Education is important. Such preparation may continue over a long period of time through numerous sessions, review of materials, public discussions, and when needed, executive sessions on particular items such as legal, personnel, student or real estate considerations.

When actions are taken during a Board Meeting, the Board is not moving hastily. Board members receive their agenda and related information well in advance of the meeting. The materials include such things as background information needed to arrive at conclusions, staff reports from the superintendent, recommendations from the superintendent, financial reports, and communications sent to the Board from individuals or groups within the community. Each member may then contact the superintendent for clarification or additional information needed prior to making a decision.

F. Board's Perpetual Calendar

The Board of Education utilizes a perpetual calendar to assist in planning the regular meetings and to ensure that all items to be reviewed by the Board of Education are done so in a timely manner. This document is amended on an "as needed" basis to incorporate new legal requirements, etc.

G. School Board Candidates On-Line Video

The Missouri School Boards' Association is producing a free video program on the basics of school board service that will be available for viewing through the MSBA website (<http://www.msbanet.org/>) after January 15. This program will cover the realities of school board service.

H. Missouri Ethics Commission

The Missouri Ethics Commission requires candidates to file Conflict of Interest and Campaign Finance statements. Please carefully review the information.