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Internal Board Policies - OrganizationPurpose and Role of the Board

The responsibilities of the Board of Education shall be as follows:

1. Provide a school system which offers a Kindergarten through twelfth grade program.
2. Confer with the Superintendent of schools about recommendations for school programs.
3. Consider and adopt textbooks selected by the Superintendent of Schools and staff together with the courses of study recommended by them.
4. Set and annually review long-term written goals for the school district.
5. Consider and approve the annual operating budget prepared by the Superintendent of Schools.
6. Consider and approve claims for expenditure.
7. Be responsible to interpret the school programs to the community through a community relations program.
8. Represent the needs of the school system before city and state authorities as well as the general public.
9. Refer parent and community criticism and suggestions to the Superintendent for consideration and recommendation.
10. Serve as a body of final appeal for staff members and school patrons on matters properly appealable from orders of the Superintendent.
11. Establish and maintain policies consistent with the Board's interpretation of the wishes of the community and the requirements of the law. Conduct an annual review of policies as and to the extent required by law.
12. Develop a procedure whereby policy changes and/or additions may be proposed by board members, other school employees, or the general public by submitting them to the Superintendent for consideration and recommendation.
13. Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of Board policies.
14. Adopt rules and regulations in cooperation with the Superintendent for governance of the school system.

15. Select the Superintendent of Schools and support the Superintendent in the efficient discharge of the Superintendent's duties.
16. Require reports from the Superintendent.
17. Evaluate the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with applicable state laws.
18. Elect school personnel upon nomination and recommendation of the Superintendent.
19. Annually elect officers of the Board and appoint auxiliary personnel as necessary.
20. Distinguish between selfish, uniformed criticism and genuinely helpful criticism.
21. Perform specific duties imposed on school boards by statutes of the State of Nebraska.
22. Participate in local, state and national organizations for school board members.
23. Cooperate with other governmental bodies and agencies.
24. Cooperate with professional and educational organizations.

Legal Reference: §79-526
 §79-407
 §79-512
 §79-828

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationDuties and Functions of the Board of Education

- A. The Board of Education shall exercise full legislative control over Stanton Community School District, in accordance with the statutes of the State of Nebraska.
- B. The Board of Education shall select a Superintendent to carry out the executive duties of Stanton Community School District. The Superintendent's appointment shall be a major item of business at the December meeting, unless the present Superintendent is on a term contract.
- C. The Board of Education shall, through its legislative function, initiate questions of policy and pass upon the recommendations of the Superintendent in matters of policy, employee employment or dismissal, salary schedules or other personnel regulations, courses of study, selection of text books, and other matters pertaining to the direct welfare of the schools.
- D. The Board of Education shall require reports from its executive officer concerning conditions of efficiency and needs of the schools. The Board shall take steps to appraise the effectiveness with which the schools are achieving the educational purposes of the school system as may be determined by the Board of Education.
- E. The Board of Education shall provide for the preparation and adoption of the annual budget and shall provide, by the exercise of its taxing power, the funds necessary to finance the operation of the schools within the guidelines of Nebraska State Statute.
- F. In order to exercise its rights and duties, the Board of Education shall prepare and publish a body of policies and regulations covering organization, policies, and procedures of the school system. The Board of Education shall cause its policies and regulations to be kept in constant revision, conduct an annual review to the extent and shall republish such policies as and to the extent required by law and as deemed necessary.

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationAnnual Organizational Meeting

- A. An organizational meeting of the Stanton Community School District Board of Education shall be held on or before the third Monday of January of each year for the purposes of seating any new members and electing officers.

The following are procedures for election of officers and other business to take place at the annual organizational meeting of the Board:

1. After new Board members are sworn in, the Board will elect from its members a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and ex officio secretary and treasurer, if it is determined by the Board of Education that same are needed, all of whom will assume office at the organizational meeting.
 2. Upon call for nominations for each office by the Chair, nominations shall be made by written or oral ballot. Voting will be by oral or written ballot on all members nominated and repeated until a majority is achieved for a nominee. If the tie is not broken after five ballots, the Chair will determine the winner by the flip of a coin, followed by a vote ratifying such selection.
 3. The President shall assume the chair immediately upon the President's election.
- B. The order of business for the remainder of the meeting shall be as follows:
1. The election of a Vice President by the same method as used for the election of the President.
 2. The election of a Secretary and Treasurer.
 3. The adoption of an order of business to guide the preparation of future agenda and conduct of meetings.
 4. Review of existing temporary committees or special appointments involving Board members.
 5. Approval of current Board policies and regulations.
 6. Dissemination to each Board member of conflict of interest statutes.

Internal Board PoliciesLocation of School Board Meetings

All meetings of the Board shall be held at the location designated in the notice of said meeting. If circumstances dictate meeting in a different location than designated in the notice, it shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to take the appropriate steps to inform Board members and the public.

Meetings of the Board may be held outside the School District boundaries when deemed necessary by the Board of Education. Meetings of the Board may be held outside the state of Nebraska upon compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1412(6), and other applicable laws.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411
 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1412(6)

Internal Board Policies - Organization

Committee of the Whole

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the Board of Education shall take formal actions as a Committee of the Whole on all matters pertaining to business and educational policies of the district.

Legal Reference: §79-520

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationStanding Committees

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the following will be the standing committees of the Board of Education:

1. Negotiations Committee
2. Curriculum, Americanism Committee and Staff Relations
3. Transportation/Facilities
4. Budget Committee
5. Policy Committee
6. Administration Review Committee

Along with the standing committees, the school district will also maintain school improvement committees. The committees will be composed of community members, teachers, administrators and board members. These committees will overlap with the standing committees. The school improvement committees are:

1. Buildings, Grounds and Transportation
2. Budget, Finance and Grant
3. Technology
4. Community
5. Personnel
6. Instruction, Curriculum and Assessments
7. Activities
8. Governance and Americanism
9. Special Education

It shall further be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the Superintendent shall appoint the members of the above committees.

Legal Reference: §79-724
 §79-520

Internal Board PoliciesStanding Committee on Negotiations

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the Negotiations Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the Superintendent.

The Negotiations Committee will represent the full Board of Education in negotiations with recognized labor organizations. The full Board of Education may also include selected administrators on the negotiations team. The Board of Education reserves the right to appoint a chief spokesperson who is not a member of the Board to represent the Board in negotiations.

After negotiations are completed, the negotiations committee will make a recommendation to the full Board of Education on the salary schedule and benefits under consideration.

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationStanding Committee on Curriculum Americanism and Staff Relations

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the Committee on Curriculum Americanism, Staff Relations shall consist of three members appointed by the Superintendent. One of the responsibilities of this committee will be to examine recommended social studies textbooks and report findings based on this examination to other members of the Board of Education.

It shall further be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the Committee on Curriculum Americanism and Staff Relations shall review all major proposals prepared by the superintendent of schools and instructional staff for adoption of new textbooks, development of new instructional programs, revision of existing instructional programs, modification of established graduation requirements, and other related matters. After the review is completed, the Committee on Curriculum, Americanism and Staff Relations will make a recommendation to the full Board of Education about approval or adoption of the matter under consideration.

Legal Reference: §79-724
 §79-520

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationTemporary Committees

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that in addition to the appointment of standing committees, the President of the Board of Education or the full Board may appoint such temporary committees as are deemed necessary.

Temporary committees shall serve at the pleasure of the President of the Board of Education or of a majority of the members of the Board of Education, but in general the duration of temporary committees shall not exceed beyond the next annual meeting of the Board of Education.

Temporary committees will be expected to submit their recommendations to the full Board of Education for appropriate action.

Legal Reference: §79-520

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersRetirement

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that retiring members of the Board of Education shall be appropriately recognized and thanked for the service which they have rendered to the schools and to the community.

When a Board member is retiring from service, the President of the Board of Education will direct that preparation be made for any presentation or award which will be made at the final meeting attended by the retiring Board member.

Retiring board members who have been elected and served at least a four-year term will be given a lifetime activity pass that will admit the board member to all home school sponsored activities.

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersOrientation for Newly-Elected Members of the Board of Education

The Board of Education and staff members shall assist each new elected member to understand the functions, policies, and procedures of the Board of Education before the member takes office. To this end the following steps shall be taken:

1. The newly-elected member shall be given selected materials such as a copy of the Board's policies, a copy of the school budget, a copy of Nebraska school laws and information on the responsibility of a school Board member.
2. The newly-elected member shall be invited to attend meetings of the Board of Education and to participate in the discussions.
3. The secretary of the Board of Education shall supply material pertinent to the meetings and the Superintendent of the School shall explain the use of such materials.
4. The newly-elected member shall be invited to meet with the Superintendent and Principal to discuss their area of responsibility as defined by the Board of Education.
5. Any other material deemed helpful shall be made available upon request.

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersOpportunities for Development

Attendance by members of the Board of Education at meetings directly or indirectly related to education or school governance matters shall be encouraged since these meetings are beneficial not only for the professional growth of school Board members but for the school system as a whole.

The Superintendent shall provide notice to Board members of scheduled meetings which may be related to education or school governance.

Legal Reference: §79-512

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersPolicy for Board Member Attendance at Educational Workshops, Conferences, Training Programs, Official Functions, Hearings, and Meetings

Board members are expected to maintain effectiveness by being well-informed on educational issues. Accordingly, Board members are encouraged to attend educational workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings, or meetings which are sponsored by the school district, state, and national education organizations.

Board members are specifically authorized to attend such functions which are sponsored by this school district, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the National School Boards Association, AASA, NRCSA and similar organizations without specific action by the Board of Education. In addition, school Board members may attend such functions at district expense sponsored by other organizations upon specific prior approval of the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: §79-512

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersCoffee Act Policy (Reimbursable Expenses)

- A. Board members, employees or volunteers of the school district are expected to maintain effectiveness by being well informed on educational and related issues and are encouraged to diligently perform their required duties, attend educational workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings or meetings which are necessary to perform required duties, sponsored by the school district or State and national educational organizations or which are otherwise in the best interests of this school district as follows:
1. Board members as a result of this policy are hereby given prior approval by this School Board and upon approval by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee are specifically authorized to attend such functions without additional or further approval by the School Board unless otherwise so determined and the school district shall pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for such functions along with actual travel expenses, if travel is by commercial or charter means or if a personal automobile is used, mileage shall be allowed at the rate provided by law with meals and lodging to be reimbursed based upon substantiated costs actually and necessarily incurred or applicable Federal Rates.
 2. Employees and volunteers are authorized to attend such functions upon prior approval by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee and the school district shall pay registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for such functions along with actual travel expenses, if travel is by commercial or charter means or if a personal automobile is used, mileage shall be allowed at the rate provided by law with meals and lodging to be reimbursed based upon substantiated costs actually and necessarily incurred or applicable to Federal rates.
- B. Payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred by Board members, employees or volunteers as otherwise specifically permitted by law shall also be allowed as provided by such law.
- C. Since it is hereby determined to be important and in the best interest of this school district to recognize service by Board members, employees and volunteers, the School Board hereby authorizes the President, Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to determine when and to whom plaques, certificates of achievement, flowers or other items of value should be granted provided that no such plaque, certificate, flowers or other item of value to be awarded shall cost more than \$50.00.
- D. School Board members are not paid members and when appropriate because of the timing, length or other factors, sandwiches or meals may be provided to School Board

- members, employees and volunteers attending public meetings or in other appropriate or necessary situations such as joint meetings with other governing bodies.
- E. That non-alcoholic beverages, cookies or other similar items may be provided to individuals attending public meetings, private meetings, discussions or public or private conferences as determined necessary or appropriate by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to be in the best interest of this school district.
 - F. Non-alcoholic beverages and meals may be provided for individuals while performing or immediately after performing relief, assistance or support activities in emergency situations or during or immediately following their participation in any activity approved by the School Board.
 - G. In addition to the other matters covered and allowed by this policy, one recognition dinner each fiscal year may be held for Board members, employees or volunteers provided the maximum cost per person, which is hereby established for such dinner shall not exceed \$25.00 and further provided that such annual dinner may be held separately for employees of each department or separately for volunteers or any of them in combination.
 - H. The authority necessary to carry out the provisions of this policy should be and is hereby delegated from the School Board to the designated officials so indicated herein.
 - I. Nothing in this policy shall authorize the expenditure of public funds to pay for any expenses incurred by a spouse of a Board member, employee or volunteer unless the spouse is also a Board member, employee or volunteer.

Legal Reference: §§13-2201 to 13-2204

Internal Board Policies/PersonnelUse of Public Resources by Board Members and EmployeesRestrictions on Use

No Board member or employee of the Stanton Community Schools shall use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of the public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which the individual is associated.

No Board member or employee shall use or authorize the use of school district personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.

No Board member or employee shall use or authorize the use of school resources for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question. For purposes of this restriction, "school resources" means personnel, property, resources, or funds under the official care and control of the Board member or employee.

Authorized Uses

The uses described below are not authorized by employees, and violate this policy, where an employee's use: (1) interferes with the conduct of school business; (2) interferes with the performance of the employee's duties and responsibilities; (3) is contrary to another Board policy or a rule or directive set forth in an employee handbook or other employee communication device; (4) is contrary to a supervisor's directive; or (5) the use is for the employee's personal financial gain or potential for potential for personal financial gain.

Incidental or De Minimis Use: Use of school resources by a Board member or employee which is incidental or de minimis does not constitute a violation of this policy.

Personal Use as Part of Compensation: Use of school resources for personal purposes is authorized by this policy if:

1. the use of the resource for personal purposes is part of the employee's compensation provided in an employment contract or is consistent with this policy; and
2. the personal use of the resource as compensation is reported in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are paid by the affected employee.

Employees who engage in such personal use shall, upon request of the Board of Education or the administration, provide evidence to establish that the compensation has been reported and taxes paid as required by the Tax Code.

School Vehicles: Use of a school vehicle by a Board member or employee to travel to a designated location or the home of the Board member or employee is permissible when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Such use is authorized by this policy. No travel other than directly to the school-related trip destination shall occur, however, when students are in the vehicle or if the vehicle is a school bus.

Communication Devices: A Board member or employee may use a telecommunication system, a cellular telephone, an electronic handheld device, or a computer under the control of the school district for email, text messaging, a local call, or a long-distance call, to a child at home, a teacher, a doctor, a day care center, a baby-sitter, a family member, or any other person to inform any such person of an unexpected schedule change or for other essential personal business. Any such communication shall be kept to a minimum and shall not interfere with the conduct of school business or the performance of an employee's duties.

A Board member or employee shall be responsible for payment or reimbursement of charges (e.g. long distance charges), if any, that directly results from any such communication. The Board member or employee shall promptly report any such communication that results in an expense to the School District to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish procedures for reimbursement of charges incurred as a result of such communications.

Use of the District's internet system for such communications shall not be permitted to the extent such use violates the terms of the E-Rate program, which restricts use of the internet system to "educational purposes."

Election Issues: A Board member or the Superintendent, in the normal course of his or her duties, may use school resources to research and prepare materials to assist the School Board in determining the effect of a ballot question on the School District.

Mass mailings, mass duplication, or other mass communications at school expense for the purpose of qualifying, supporting, or opposing a ballot question is not permitted. Mass communications does not include placing public records demonstrating the consequences of the passage or defeat of a ballot question affecting the School District on its existing websites.

A Board member or employee may campaign for or against the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate when no school resources are used. An employee shall not engage in campaign activity for or against the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate while on duty time.

A Board member or authorized employee may make school facilities available for campaign

purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions of use.

The School Board may discuss and vote upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.

A Board member may respond to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to his or her opinion regarding a ballot question or provide information in response to a request for information.

A Board member or employee may identify himself or herself by his or her official title when communicating about a ballot question. Employees who do so shall clearly communicate that their communication is their personal opinion and does not reflect the position or views of the Board of Education or the School District unless express authorization is given by the Board of Education or the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§49-14,101.01 and 49-14,101.02

Internal Board Policies - Board Members

Membership in School Board Associations

The Board of Education shall ordinarily hold memberships in such local, state, regional, and national school board associations as may exist, and shall look upon such memberships as an opportunity for growth in Board service.

Legal Reference: §79-512

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersConflict of Interest/Contracts

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that any contract whether oral or written, formal or informal, which is entered into by the school district and in which a member of the Board of Education is directly or indirectly interested, is voidable unless certain reporting, disclosure and abstention requirements are met. The school district is authorized to enter into a contract in which a member of the Board of Education is directly or indirectly interested so long as:

1. The Board member makes a declaration on the record regarding the nature of his/her interest prior to official consideration of the contract.
2. The affected Board member does not participate in consideration or discussion of the contract.
3. The Board member does not vote on the granting of the contract except that if the number of members of the Board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the Board with all members present from securing a quorum in the issue, then all members may vote on the matter.
4. The Board member does not in any way participate in the inspection, operation, administration or performance under the contract on the part of the district.

It shall further be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the above provisions apply not only to formal contracts but also to open accounts.

Legal Reference: ' 49-14,103.01

Internal Board PoliciesConflict of Interest - Employment of Family Member of Board Member or Supervisor and Employment of Board Member

1. A member of the Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - a. He or she does not abuse his or her official position (for this purpose, “abuse” means employing an immediate family member: who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position; at an unreasonably high salary; or who is not required to perform the duties of the position);
 - b. He or she makes a full disclosure on the record to the Board of Education and a written disclosure to the Superintendent and/or Secretary of the Board; and,
 - c. The Board of Education approves the employment or supervisory position.
2. No immediate family member of a Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall be employed by the School District:
 - a. Without first having made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment.
 - b. Who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position.
 - c. For any unreasonably high salary.
 - d. Who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
3. Neither the Board of Education nor an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.
4. This policy shall not apply to an immediate family member of a member of the Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities who was previously employed in a position with the School District prior to the election or appointment of the Board member or employee. Prior to or as soon as reasonably possible after the official date a Board member takes office or an employee assumes his or her responsibilities, such Board member, administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall make a full disclosure of any immediate family member employed in a position subject to this policy.
5. A member of the Board of Education may not be engaged in a contract to teach with the Stanton Community School District. Nor shall a member of the Board of Education cast a vote in favor of the election of any employee when the Board member is related by blood or marriage to such employee.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 49-1499.04; ' 49-1499.05; 79-544; and 79-818

Internal Board PoliciesConflict of Interest

1. Members of the Board of Education of this School District shall abstain from voting on matters on which they may have a conflict of interest. Any Board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:
 - a. Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict; and,
 - b. Deliver a copy of the statement to the Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission and to the Superintendent and Secretary of the Board of Education who shall enter the statement into the public records of the School District.

The Board member shall take such action as the Commission shall advise or prescribe to remove himself or herself from influence over the action or decision in the matter.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 above shall not prevent a Board member from making or participating in the making of a School District-related decision to the extent that the individual's participation is legally required for the action or decision to be made. In such event, the Board member shall report the occurrence to the Commission.
3. Except as defined in Nebraska statute and this policy, conflict of interest of a Board member shall not prevent a Board member from serving on the Board or restrict the hiring or purchasing practices of this School District.
4. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, shall provide:
 - a. Each Board member with copies of state statutes of Nebraska pertaining to conflicts of interest at the organizational meeting of the Board of Education held at the regular School Board meeting in January of each year. In addition, any newly appointed or elected Board member shall be provided such statutes.
 - b. When possible, provide each Board member with a list of financial matters on the agenda to come before the Board of Education at the next regular meeting in sufficient detail to allow the Board member to identify potential conflicts of interest and report and receive advice from the Commission.

5. For purposes of this policy, immediate family member shall be defined as a child residing in the Board member's household, a Board member's spouse or an individual claimed by that Board member or the Board member's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §49-1425;§49-14,101;
§49-14,102; §49-14,103; §49-103.01;
§49-14,103.02; §49-14,103.03;
§49-14,103.04; §49-14,103.05; §49-14,103.06;
§79-818; §79-544 and
Neb. Rev. Stat. §49-1499.

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersReporting Procedures

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that any School Board member who has a direct or indirect interest in a formal contract entered into with Stanton Community School District, or an open account, shall provide the Superintendent of Schools with the following:

1. Names of the contracting parties.
2. Nature of the interest of the School Board member.
3. Date that the contract was approved by the School Board.
4. Amount of the contract.
5. Basic terms of the contract.

The above information shall be provided to the Superintendent of Schools no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. Such information shall be kept on a ledger, and shall be retained in the ledger for five (5) years from the date of the last day in office of the school Board member. The ledger kept by the Superintendent of Schools shall be available for public inspection during the normal working hours.

It shall further be the policy of Stanton Community School District that in the case of open accounts, the above information shall be filed within ten (10) days after the account is opened and thereafter the interested officer shall file a revision to the statement within ten (10) days of each payment on the account specifying the date and amount of the payment.

Legal Reference: §49-14,103.02

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersCode of Ethics

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that members of the Board of Education will exercise their responsibilities in accordance with the following Code of Ethics:

1. As a member of the local Board of Education, representing all the citizens of the Stanton Community School District, each Board member will recognize:
 - a. That he or she has been entrusted with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.
 - b. That the community expects that the first and greatest concern of a school Board member will be the best interest of each and every one of the young people enrolled in the district's schools.
 - c. That the future welfare of this community, of this state, and of our nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education provided in Stanton Community School District to meet the needs of every learner.
 - d. That members of the Board of Education must collectively take the initiative in helping all the people in this community to have updated, accurate information about the public schools system, and to provide the finest possible school programs, school staff, and school facilities.
 - e. That by statute the authority of the Board of Education is derived from the state which is ultimately responsible for the organization and operation of the public schools and which determines the degree of discretionary power exercised by the Board representing the people of the Stanton Community School District community.
 - f. That a school Board member must never neglect his or her personal obligation to the community and legal obligation to the State of Nebraska, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group or organization; but that, beyond this, each school Board member has a moral and civic obligation to our country which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States are kept strong and free.
2. In view of the foregoing consideration, it must be the constant endeavor of each school Board member:
 - a. To devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school Board member so that he/she may render effective and creditable service.

- b. To work with fellow School Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation so as to convert differences of opinion which arise during discussion and debate into a consensus for the benefit of the students enrolled in Stanton Community School District.
- c. To base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation, to vote honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board of Education.
- d. To remember at all times that individual Board members have no local authority outside the meetings of the Board of Education, and to conduct relationships with school staff members, local citizens, and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.
- e. To resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a school Board member to benefit either oneself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school system.
- f. To recognize that it is as important for the Board of Education to understand and evaluate the educational program of Stanton Community School District as it is to plan for the business of the school district.
- g. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board of Education is to establish and maintain the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be the primary responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and the professional and non-professional staff members who are employed to work with the Superintendent of Schools.
- h. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media of communication in Stanton Community School District with respect to the establishment of policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.
- i. To strive step by step to achieve the ideal conditions for the most effective service by a Board of Education to its community, in a spirit of teamwork and unwavering commitment to the American system of public education as a primary means for preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationMethods of Operation

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the Board of Education exercises authority over the schools in accordance with applicable laws. It determines policy; delegates executive supervisory and instructional authority to its employees; and appraises results achieved in light of goals established by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall direct its attention primarily to broad questions of policy and the appraisal of results rather than to administrative details. It shall be recognized that the implementation and the application of policy is an administrative task to be performed by the Superintendent of Schools and professional and non-professional staff elected to work with the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent and Principals shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of Stanton Community School District and its policies.

All matters to be submitted to the Board of Education shall first be brought to the Superintendent of School for study, analysis, review and recommendation. The Superintendent will present to the Board of Education those matters which require formal action by the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: §79-526
 §79-520

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationFormulation of Policies

It shall be the policy of Stanton Community School District that the Board of Education, representing the people of the Stanton Community School District, will be the governing body which determines all questions of general policy to be employed in the governance of the Stanton Community School District.

Proposals regarding school district policies and operation may be initiated by any of several sources: a parent, a taxpayer, a professional employee, a school board member, a non-professional employee, a professional consultant, a civic group, etc. Ordinarily policies will be developed for presentation to the Board of Education by the Superintendent.

Formal action on policy proposals, whatever their source, will be taken by the Board of Education in accordance with its bylaws. Ordinarily, the Board of Education shall take action on such matters upon the basis of recommendations presented to the Board of Education by the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: §79-554
 §79-520

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationAdoption, Amendment or Suspension of Policies

- A. Proposed policies introduced and recommended to the Board shall require a majority vote of the Board for adoption and if so passed shall take effect immediately.
- B. Any policy of the Board may be suspended for an agreed upon period of time by a majority vote of the members of the Board.
- C. The Superintendent of Schools, in case of emergency or to comply with legal requirements, may suspend any part of these policies and regulations as it pertains to administration of schools provided, however, that the Superintendent shall report the fact and the reason for such suspension at the next meeting of the Board of Education and, provided further that the suspension shall expire at the time of said report unless continued in effect by action of the Board of Education.

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationFormulation of Administrative Regulations

The Board of Education shall delegate to the Superintendent of Schools the function of specifying required actions and outlining detailed arrangements for operation of the schools. These rules and detailed arrangements shall constitute the administrative regulations governing the schools. These rules and arrangements must, in every respect, be consistent with the policies adopted by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall approve administrative regulations when specific state laws require such action or when the Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education take such action.

Legal Reference: §79-520

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationMeetings

The formation of school policy is a public matter and final action on such a matter must be taken in an open meeting. Every meeting of the Board of Education shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of the Board of Education, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, and by federal and state law.

The term "meeting" shall refer to all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of the Board of Education for the purpose of briefing, discussing public business, forming tentative policy, or taking any action of the Board of Education. This definition of "meeting" includes any meeting of an advisory committee of the Board of Education, but specifically excludes any meeting of a subcommittee, or standing committee, of the Board of Education unless such subcommittee or standing committee has been given the authority to take formal action on behalf of the Board.

Since members of the Board of Education are unable to function officially as individuals, the meeting of the Board of Education will present an opportunity for the school program to be discussed and appraised and for individual biases and opinions to be aired as the members of the Board of Education strive for consensus decisions on specific issues. In addition, the meeting will provide an appropriate place for items of interest or concern to individual citizens or groups of the school community to be heard and considered. The Board of Education will take formal action only when the Board is meeting in open session.

Legal Reference: §79-554
 §79-555
 §84-1412

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationTypes of MeetingsRegular Meetings

Regular scheduled meetings may be of two kinds: business or education or both. The education meetings may be held for the purpose of reviewing the school program, or for the development and discussion of policy.

Special Meetings

A special meeting may be called by the President of the Board, or upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, or by two members collectively in the event the President fails to act, upon due notice as specified by the bylaws. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except that for which the meeting is called or that of an emergency nature.

Legal Reference: §79-554
 §84-1409

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationDesignated Method of Giving Notice of Meetings

The designated methods of giving advance notice of meetings of the Board of Education of the Stanton Community School District shall be by publication or by posting. If notice is given by posting, such notice shall be given by posting notice in at least five (5) public places throughout the school district. The North door of the High School, the front door of the Elementary, the Stanton U.S. Post Office, Stanton City Hall and the Stanton County Court House are designated posting places, though other or different places at which the public may reasonably be notified are also designated as permissible places.

Notice shall be given a reasonable time in advance of the meeting. Two (2) days advance notice shall be considered sufficient.

For an emergency meeting, notice shall not be required to be given; however, the Board will complete minutes for such an emergency meeting as required by law.

The Secretary of the Board of Education, or the Secretary's designee, shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to such news media of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at the meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-554; 79-555 and 84-1411

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationAgenda Construction and Control

- A. Written meeting agendas will be prepared by the Superintendent of Schools in corroboration with the President of the Board of Education. Any Board member may submit agenda items to be placed on the agenda by the Superintendent and the Board President.
- B. Control of the agenda is the responsibility of the Board President.
- C. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting.
- D. An agenda, kept continuously current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent of School of the Stanton Community Schools during normal business hours. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The School Board shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only by action taken at the public meeting at which the item is to be considered.

Legal Reference: § 84-1411

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationProcedures During Meetings

In the absence of the President and the Vice President of the Board of Education at any meeting, the Board shall choose a President pro tempore. In the absence of the Secretary at any meeting, the Board shall also choose a Secretary pro tempore.

Any action taken on a question or a motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the Board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or abstained.

The vote to elect the leadership of the Board of Education at the reorganization meeting shall be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Legal Reference: §79-569
 §79-520
 §84-1413

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationPublic Participation at Board MeetingsA. Attend

Members of the public shall be permitted to attend and to speak at board meetings. They will not be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting.

The Board may allow advisors, consultants, and other persons who are not Board members to appear at the meeting via telephone or other similar means.

The chair has the authority to assure that people conduct themselves in an orderly manner at the meeting. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of business will not be allowed. The chair may order persons who are disorderly to be removed from the meeting.

Legal Reference: §§ 79-570; 79-571;
§ 84-1411 (3) and (6); § 84-1412 (1) and (3)

B. Hear

The board will, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

Legal Reference: § 84-1412 (7)

C. Record

Members of the public may use recording devices (tape recorder, video camera, etc.) to record any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions. No recording, other than note taking, shall be done without informing the President in advance. The President shall control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of Board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

Legal Reference: § 84-1412 (1)

D. Access to Written Materials

At least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting will be made available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public.

Legal Reference: § 84-1412 (8)

E. Speak

Members of the public will be permitted to speak at Board meetings at which a public forum is on the Agenda. Members of the public may also speak when invited to make a presentation or when recognized by the chair. The Board is not required to allow members of the public to speak at each meeting. However, the Board will not forbid public participation at all meetings.

Members of the public will not be required to have their name be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda.

Members of the public who desire to address the Board will be required to identify themselves.

The President or chair for the meeting shall have the authority to establish reasonable time limits for individual speakers and for the duration of public forum sessions.

Speakers will be permitted to address the Board consistent with free speech rights. However, offensive language, defamatory remarks, and hostile conduct will not be tolerated. Further, charges or complaints against a school employee shall not be made for the first time at a public Board meeting without having followed the school's complaint procedure.

Legal Reference:

§ 84-1412 (1) (2) and (3)

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationTeacher-Administrator-Board of Education Relationships

Since it is recognized that providing a high quality education for children is the paramount aim of Stanton Community School District and that good morale is necessary for the best education of children, the Board sets forth the following policy concerning the relationship of the Board, the administration, and the staff:

- A. The Board of Education, under law, has the final responsibility of establishing policies for the district.
- B. The Superintendent and his staff have the responsibility of carrying out the policies established through the development and monitoring of administrative rules and regulations.
- C. The professional teaching personnel has the ultimate responsibility of providing the best possible education in the classroom through the careful following of Board policies and administrative rules and regulations.