

1.09—POLICY FORMULATION

The Board affirms through its policies and its policy adoption process, its belief that:

- 1) The schools belong to the people who create them by consent and support them by taxation;
- 2) The schools are only as strong as an informed citizenry and knowledgeable school staff allow them to be; and
- 3) The support is based on knowledge of, understanding about, and participation in the efforts of its public schools.

The following shall be the guidelines for policy adoption for the Benton School District.

Proposals for new policy, or for changes in policy, will be accepted at a regular meeting or special meeting and will not be voted on until the next regular meeting, unless the Board declares extraordinary circumstances exist that require immediate attention.

Declaration of Extraordinary Circumstances

In order to take action on a policy change in a special meeting of the Board, the Board must by unanimous vote of all members present declare, by motion, that Extraordinary Circumstances exist. If unanimous consent is agreed upon, then action may be taken on the policy immediately. Failure to obtain unanimous consent on the declaration of extraordinary circumstances prohibits the Board from taking action in a special meeting.

General Policies

Policies that are not personnel policies may be recommended by:

- The Board or any member of the Board;
- The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, any other administrator or employee of the District
- Committee appointed by the Board; or
- Any member of the public.

Policies adopted by the Board shall be within the legal framework of the State and Federal Constitutions, and appropriate statutes, rules, and court decisions.

Except for personnel policies, when reviewing a proposed policy, the Board may elect to adopt, amend, refer back to the person proposing the policy for further consideration, take it under advisement, reject it, or refuse to consider such proposal.

Licensed and Classified Personnel Policies

Personnel policies (including employee salary schedules) shall be created, amended, or deleted in accordance with State law:

(1) Board Proposals:

The Board may adopt a proposed personnel policy by a majority vote. Such policies may be proposed to the Board by a Board member or the Superintendent. The Board may choose to adopt the proposal, as a proposal only, by majority vote.

Following the adoption of a proposed personnel policy, the proposal must be presented to the appropriate Personnel Policy Committee (PPC). Such presentation shall be in writing, to all members of the Committee.

When the PPC has possessed the proposed personnel policy for a minimum of ten (10) working days from the date the PPC received the proposed policy (i.e., ten (10) workdays, not including weekends or state or national holidays), the Chairman of the PPC, or the Chairman's designee, shall be placed on the Board of Director's meeting agenda to make an oral presentation to the Board to address the proposed policy. Following the presentation, the Board may vote at the same meeting at which the proposal is made, or, in any case, no later than the next regular Board meeting to:

- (a) Adopt the Board's original policy as a policy;
- (b) Adopt the PPC's counter proposed policy as a policy; or
- (c) Refer the PPC's counter proposed policy back to the PPC for further study and revision. Any such referral is subject to the same adoption process as a proposed policy originating from the board.

(2) Personnel Policies Committee Proposals:

Either PPC may recommend changes in personnel policies to the Board. When making such a proposal, the Chairman of the PPC, or the Chairman's designee, shall be placed on the Board of Director's meeting agenda to make an oral and written presentation to the Board.

The Board will vote on the proposed policy at the next regular Board meeting. In voting on a proposed policy from the Personnel Policies Committee, the Board may:

- (a) Adopt the proposal;
- (b) Reject the proposal; or
- (c) Refer the proposal back to the Personnel Policies Committee for further study and revision.

When the Board is revising the licensed and classified personnel salaries, the Board of Directors shall, as required by Arkansas law, review and approve by a written resolution any employee's salary increase of five percent (5%) or more for the employee.

All personnel policies must be sent to the PPC for the minimum ten (10) days regardless of the intended effective date of the policy.

Effective date of policy changes:

All personnel policy changes enacted during one fiscal year will become effective on the first day of the following fiscal year, July 1. This specifically includes any changes made between

May 1 and June 30 to ensure compliance with state or federal laws, state rules, or federal regulations or the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner's Memos. In addition, changes to policies to maintain compliance with state or federal laws, state rules, federal regulations, or Commissioner's Memos that are after June 30 but are adopted within ninety (90) days from the effective date of the legal change that created the need for the policy adoption shall become effective on the final date of adoption.

Changes made to personnel policies between May 1 and June 30 that are not made to ensure compliance with state or federal laws, state rules or federal regulations will take effect on July 1 of the same calendar year provided no later than five (5) working days after final board action, a notice of the change is sent to each affected employee by first class mail to the address on record in the personnel file. The notice of the change must include:

- a. The new or modified policy or policies provided in a form that clearly shows the additions underlined and the deletions stricken;
- b. A statement that due to the change(s), the employee has the power to unilaterally rescind his/her contract for a period of thirty (30) days after the school board took final action on the policy (policies). The rescission must be in the form of a letter of resignation within the thirty (30) day period.

Except for policy changes to ensure compliance with changes in the law that are adopted within the ninety (90) day window, for a policy change to be made effective prior to July 1 of the following fiscal year, a vote must be taken of all licensed personnel or all classified personnel, as appropriate, with the vote conducted by the appropriate PPC. If, by a majority vote, the affected personnel approve, the policy becomes effective as of the date of the vote, unless otherwise specified by the Board in requesting such vote. No staff vote taken prior to final board action will be considered effective to make a policy change.

All non-personnel policy changes become effective upon the Board's approval of the change, unless the Board specifies a different date.

The District's personnel policy committees shall annually review the District's student discipline policies along with State and District discipline data. Based on the committees' annual review, the committees may recommend changes to such policies to the Board of Directors.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-13-619 (c)
A.C.A. § 6-13-635
A.C.A. § 6-17-201 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-17-2301 et seq
A.C.A. § 6-18-502(b)(1)(2)

Date Adopted: 06/09/03
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