

**ORIENTATION**

**Board Candidate Orientation**

The Governing Board desires to provide Board candidates with orientation that will enable them to understand the responsibilities of Board membership. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with general information about school programs, district operations, and Board responsibilities.

*(cf. 9200 - Members)*

*(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)*

The Board encourages all candidates to attend public Board meetings during the period of their candidacy. Candidates have the same access as members of the public to district staff and information.

*(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)*

*(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

**New Board Member Orientation**

Note: As amended by SB 1140 (Ch. 1138, Statutes of 1993), Government Code 54952.7 states that the Board may require that a copy of the Brown Act be given to each member of the Board and any person elected to the Board who has not assumed the duties of office. Government Code 54952.1, added by SB 36 (Ch. 1137, Statutes of 1993), states that persons elected to serve as Board members must conform their conduct to the requirements of the Brown Act and must be treated as if they had already assumed office. The following **optional** paragraph may be revised as desired.

The Board and the Superintendent or designee shall help each new member-elect to understand district operations and the Board's functions, policies and procedures as soon after election as possible. Incoming members shall be given a copy of the Brown Act and informed that they must conform to its requirements as if they had already assumed office. Incoming members shall also receive the district's policy manual and other materials related to the school system and Board member responsibilities.

**ORIENTATION** (continued)

Incoming members are encouraged to attend Board meetings and meet with the Superintendent or designee and Board president regarding their role and responsibilities. They also may, at district expense, attend workshops for newly elected members.

*(cf. 9240 - Board Development)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshops

33362 Reimbursement of expenses; member of school district board

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54962 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.1 Member of a legislative body

54952.7 Copies of Brown Act to Board members

Adopted: March 11, 2004

**GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Sebastopol, California