

**Burlington School District Policy
B 6: BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY**

Former Policy BBBA

In accordance with Vermont Statutes, the responsibility for the Burlington Public Schools is vested in the School Board. The individual members hold an office of shared power and responsibility. They collectively constitute an agency of government whose powers, responsibilities, and duties can only be exercised by the Board, and only when that board is officially in session.

Each board member serves all of the people of the City of Burlington in both thought and action. The underlying philosophy to Board decisions is that all decisions and actions must be based upon the understanding by individual members of what is in the best educational interest of all students throughout the city. Board members, though elected by wards of the city, represent the interests of all students and schools in Burlington and must make decisions accordingly. Board members should not be committed to a particular school, group, or point of view.

When dealing with public issues outside official Board sessions, Board members should strive at all times to represent the Board to the public in a discerning and professional manner. If approached about a matter on which the board has no established policy, individual Board members should not commit themselves to any position or promise other than to discuss the matter with the Superintendent or to present it to the Board for consideration. A Board member will do nothing intended to give the false impression that he or she has the authority to make decisions or take action on behalf of the Board or the school administration. The Board Chair or designee may speak on behalf of the Board to media on issues before the Board.

This policy was revised in accordance with Vermont School Board Association and National School Board Association policy guidance.

Cross Reference: Board Member's Authority B 6

Policy reviews and updates:

August 10, 1993	Policy reviewed
October 22, 1996	Policy reviewed
September 8, 1998	First reading
October 13, 1998	Second reading & adoption
September 8, 1998	First reading
October 13, 1998	Second reading & adoption
June 13, 2006	First reading
July 11, 2006	Second reading & adoption