

Bylaws of the Board

Orientation of Board Members

Because the Board, as the policy making authority of the Waterford Public Schools, is responsible to the public for the success of all educational services offered by the school system, and because that success is directly dependent upon each Board member's ability to participate meaningfully in the decision-making process that governs this system, it shall be the policy of the Board to provide, as soon as practicable, for the orientation of new members. The purpose of the orientation is to help new members become quickly acquainted with their Board duties and responsibilities.

Orientation of new Board members will begin at the outset of their candidacy and follow through each step of the election process. Prior to elections, beginning as soon as the individual's candidacy is known, the candidates will receive from the Board, a brief overview of the Waterford Public School System. The candidates will be placed on a mailing list to receive notices of Board and other meetings and summary reports of Board action. Candidates also will be informed that additional information pertinent to each Board agenda item is available to them through the Central Office.

After the general election in November, and prior to the new members officially assuming the position in December, the new members will be invited to meet with the Superintendent and other administrative personnel to discuss services to be performed for the Board, and to give them the opportunity to request any other information they may deem desirable. Each new member will also receive an orientation packet from the Superintendent's office and will be notified of and given the opportunity to attend sessions of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education or similar new Board member orientation.

The following methods shall be employed:

1. The incoming member shall be given selected material, on the function of the Board of Education and the school system.
2. The incoming member shall be invited to attend Board meetings.
3. The incoming member shall be invited to meet with the Superintendent and other administrative personnel to discuss services they perform for the Board. Incumbent Board members shall be notified of such meetings.
4. The incoming member shall be provided with a copy of the Board's policies and bylaws, administrative regulations, and copies of pertinent materials developed by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.
5. The incoming member may attend, at school system expense, workshops for newly elected members as approved by the Board of Education.