School Law for Board Members
Haley Percell
Lucy Schwallie

Agenda
1. Board Member Election and Qualifications
2. Board’s Scope of Authority
3. Public Meeting Laws
4. Public Record Laws
5. Ethics Laws
6. Board Member and District Liability

Qualifications (ORS 332.018)
- Elector in the district
- Resided in the district - one year
- If there are zones - must reside in the zone
- No compensation – except for reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses
- Term - four years
What if we have a vacancy? 
ORS 332.030

What if I move?

We have a board - now what?
July 1

Scope of Authority

“Authorized to transact all business coming within jurisdiction of district.”
The board has control of:
District Schools

The Board is responsible for educating students residing in the district.

YOUR BASIC DUTIES
DISTRICT POLICY

ADOPT A BUDGET

APPROVE CURRICULUM

Oregon School Boards Association
What to delegate?

Day-to-Day Operations

Employee discipline, employee evaluations, and terminations of some employees.
What not to Delegate?

Board may not delegate approval of:
- collective bargaining agreements or
- service contracts that include labor performed by employees of the district

Public Meeting Laws
What is a public meeting?

What is not a public meeting?
Executive Sessions

- Must cite to statutory authority. ORS 192.660.
- No voting except for student expulsions.
- Media permitted.

TRESPASS/EXCLUSION FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Record Laws
What is a public record?

Every Document Regarding District Business

Open to Inspection by Anyone
Must release public records regardless of who is requesting or why they are requesting.

You cannot refuse a public records request just because they are a known troublemaker.

Numerous Exceptions

Over 400
General Exceptions
- Personnel Files
- Employee Discipline
- Student Records

Most Are Conditional:
Must balance desire to keep confidential with the public interest in disclosure

Ethics
Gifts

No use of your office for financial gain

Disclose conflicts of interest
Board Member and District Liability

QUESTIONS
1-800-578-6722

Haley Percell hpercell@osba.org
Callen Sterling csterling@osba.org
PACE Preloss pacepreloss@osba.org