

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT ~~OPPORTUNITIES~~

The School Board places a high priority on ~~the importance of~~ a planned and continuing program of professional development ~~inservice education~~ for all its members. The School Board requires the same focus from all Albemarle County Public Schools employees. While the Code of Virginia requires annual School Board member training, this policy clarifies and expands the State Code description as it pertains to Albemarle County Public Schools.

The ~~central~~ purpose of School Board member professional development and training ~~the program~~ is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of public school governance in our school community. Therefore, the School Board shall plan and require attendance in specific in-service activities designed to provide an orientation for newly elected School Board members and members serving in School Board leadership positions, assist School Board members in their efforts to improve their skills as members of a policy-making body; to expand their knowledge about educational trends, issues, and ~~changes new ideas~~ affecting the continued welfare of the local schools and students; and to deepen their insights into the nature of leadership in a modern democratic society.

~~School Board members will participate annually in high-quality professional development activities at the local, state or national levels on governance, including, but not limited to personnel, policies and practices; curriculum and instruction; use of data in planning and decision making; and current issues in education.~~

Funds shall be budgeted annually to support this program. Individual School Board members shall be reimbursed for out-of-pocket costs incurred through participation in approved activities. The School Board as a whole shall retain the authority to approve or disapprove the participation of members in planned activities.

The public shall be kept informed about the School Board's continuing inservice education and about the program's anticipated short- and long-range benefits to the school divisions.

The School Board regards the following as the kinds of activities and services appropriate for implementing this policy:

1. Participation in School Board conferences, workshops, and conventions held by the Virginia School Boards Association ~~state and~~ the National School Boards Association, and the State Department of Education, ~~, colleges and universities, teleconferences, joint training opportunities, and business/industry training.~~
2. Albemarle County Public Schools' Division ~~Division~~ sponsored training sessions for School Board members. ;
3. ~~Subscriptions to publications addressed to the concerns of School Board members.~~

43. Developmental activities and retreats planned by the School Board.

4. Participation in college and university teleconferences, joint training opportunities and business/industry training specifically related to School Board governance, including, but not limited to personnel; policies and practices; curriculum and instruction; use of technology and data in planning and decision making; and current issues in education.

School Board members wishing to participate in activities or courses in lieu of those listed above but associated with other skills and knowledge beneficial to their role as a member of the School Board may submit to the School Board a request for approval.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: June 26, 2003, August 16, 2004, August 14, 2008; January 28, 2010

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, Section 1950, as amended §§ 22.1-78; 22.1-253.13:5(D)