

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board of Directors has been appointed by the members Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) to provide leadership and member oversight of the SCVSFSA. The Board shall ensure that SCVSFSA is responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of the community.

The Board shall work with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to fulfill its major responsibilities, which include:

1. Setting the direction for SCVSFSA through a process that involves the community, parents/guardians, students, and staff

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

2. Establishing an effective and efficient organizational structure for SCVSFSA by:

- a. Employing the CEO and setting policy for hiring of other personnel

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

(cf. 2120 - Superintendent Recruitment and Selection)

(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)

(cf. 4000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 4111 - Recruitment and Selection)

(cf. 4211 - Recruitment and Selection)

(cf. 4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

- b. Overseeing the development and adoption of policies

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

- c. Establishing budget priorities and adopting the budget

(cf. 3000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

- d. Providing safe, adequate facilities that support SCVSFSA's program

(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

- e. Setting parameters for negotiations with employee organizations and ratifying the memorandum of understanding

ROLE OF THE BOARD (continued)

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)

3. Providing support to the CEO and staff as they carry out the Board's direction by:

- a. Establishing and adhering to standards of responsible governance

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

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

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

- b. Making decisions and providing resources that support SCVSFSA priorities and goals

- c. Upholding Board policies

- d. Being knowledgeable about SCVSFSA programs and efforts in order to serve as effective spokespersons

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

4. Ensuring accountability to the public for the performance of the SCVSFSA by:

- a. Evaluating the CEO and setting policy for the evaluation of other personnel

(cf. 2140- Evaluation of the Superintendent)

(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/Supervision)

- b. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of policies

- c. Serving as a judicial (hearing) and appeals body in accordance with law, Board policies, and negotiated agreements

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4117.3 - Personnel Reduction)

(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)

(cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

ROLE OF THE BOARD (continued)

- (cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)*
- (cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)*
- (cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*
- (cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*
- (cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)*
- (cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)*

d. Monitoring and adjusting SCVSFSA finances

- (cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)*

e. Monitoring the meet and confer process

5. Providing community leadership and advocacy on behalf of students, SCVSFSA's program, and public education in order to build support within the local community and at the state and national levels

- (cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)*
- (cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*
- (cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)*
- (cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*
- (cf. 1160 - Political Processes)*
- (cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)*
- (cf. 1700 - Relations between Private Industry and the Schools)*
- (cf. 9010 - Public Statements)*

The Board is authorized to establish and finance any program or activity that is not in conflict with, inconsistent with, or preempted by law. (Education Code 35160)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ROLE OF THE BOARD (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5304 *Duties of governing board (re school district elections)*
12400-12405 *Authority to participate in federal programs*
17565-17592 *Board duties re property maintenance and control*
33319.5 *Implementation of authority of local agencies*
35000 *District name*
35010 *Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*
35020-35046 *Officers and agents*
35100-35351 *Governing boards, especially:*
35160-35185 *Powers and duties*
35291 *Rules*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance
Professional Governance Standards, November 2000
School Board Leadership: The Role and Function of California's School Boards, 1996
NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS
The Key Work of School Boards, 2000

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
CSBA Governance Institute: <http://www.csba.org/gi>
National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

The Board of Directors believes that its primary responsibility is to act in the best interests of the community served by the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA). To maximize Board effectiveness and public confidence in SCVSFSA governance, Board members are expected to govern responsibly and hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The Board expects its members to work with each other and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to ensure that a high-quality program is provided to the community. Each individual Board member shall:

1. Keep learning and achievement for all students as the primary focus
2. Value, support and advocate for public education

(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

3. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, parents and the community
4. Act with dignity, and understand the implications of demeanor and behavior
5. Keep confidential matters confidential

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

6. Participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

7. Understand the distinctions between Board and staff roles, and refrain from performing management functions that are the responsibility of the CEO and staff

(cf. 2110 - Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties)

8. Understand that authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with individuals

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

Board members also shall assume collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture. To operate effectively, the Board shall have a unity of purpose and:

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS (continued)

1. Keep SCVSFSA focused on supporting learning and achievement for all students
2. Communicate a common vision

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

3. Operate openly, with trust and integrity
4. Govern in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
5. Govern within Board-adopted policies and procedures

(cf. 9310 - Board Policies)

6. Take collective responsibility for the Board's performance
7. Periodically evaluate its own effectiveness

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

8. Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform Board deliberations

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

GOVERNANCE STANDARDS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 *Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance*

35160 *Board authority to act in any manner not conflicting with law*

35164 *Actions by majority vote*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090 *Financial interest in contract*

1098 *Disclosure of confidential information*

1125-1129 *Incompatible activities*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act*

87300-87313 *Conflict of interest code*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

The Board of Directors recognizes the responsibility of Board members in their role as community leaders to participate in public discourse on matters of civic or community interest, including those involving the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA), and their rights to freely express their personal views. However, to ensure communication of a consistent, unified message regarding SCVSFSA issues, Board members are expected to respect the authority of the Board to choose its representatives to communicate its positions and to abide by established protocols.

All public statements authorized to be made on behalf of the Board shall be made by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or other designated representative.

(cf. 2110 – Superintendent [CEO] Responsibilities and Duties)

(cf. 9121 - President)

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)

When speaking for the SCVSFSA, the Board encourages its spokespersons to exercise restraint and tact and to communicate the message in a manner that promotes public confidence in the Board’s leadership.

Board spokespersons shall not disclose confidential information or information received in closed session except when authorized by a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54963)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

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

When speaking to community groups, the media, or members of the public, individual Board members should recognize that their statements may be perceived as reflecting the views and positions of the Board. Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board.

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

In addition, the Board encourages members who participate on social networking sites, blogs, or other discussion or informational sites to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner and to model good behavior for district students and the community. Such electronic communications are subject to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication, and the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act may likewise apply to them.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 California Public Records Act

54960 Actions to stop or prevent violation of meeting provisions

54963 Confidential information in closed session

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL/PRIVILEGED INFORMATION

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of information acquired as part of a Board member's official duties. Confidential/privileged information shall be released only to the extent authorized by law.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

Disclosure of Closed Session Information

A Board member shall not disclose confidential information acquired during a closed session to a person not entitled to receive such information, unless a majority of the Board has authorized its disclosure. (Government Code 54963)

Confidential information means a communication made in a closed session that is specifically related to the basis for the Board to meet lawfully in closed session. (Government Code 54963)

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)
(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

The Board shall not take any action against any person for disclosing confidential information, nor shall the disclosure be considered a violation of the law or Board policy, when the person is: (Government Code 54963)

1. Making a confidential inquiry or complaint to a district attorney or grand jury concerning a perceived violation of law, including disclosing facts necessary to establish the illegality or potential illegality of a Board action that has been the subject of deliberation during a closed session
2. Expressing an opinion concerning the propriety or legality of Board action in closed session, including disclosure of the nature and extent of the illegal or potentially illegal action
3. Disclosing information that is not confidential

Other Disclosures

A Board member shall not disclose, for pecuniary gain, confidential information acquired in the course of his/her official duties. Confidential information includes information that is not a public record subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, information that by law may not be disclosed, or information that may have a material financial effect on the Board member. (Government Code 1098)

DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL/PRIVILEGED INFORMATION (continued)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - *Personnel Files*)
(cf. 5125 - *Student Records*)

Disclosures excepted from this prohibition are those made to law enforcement officials or to the joint legislative audit committee when reporting on improper governmental activities. (Government Code 1098)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 *Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance*

35146 *Closed session*

EVIDENCE CODE

1040 *Privilege for official information*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1098 *Public officials and employees re confidential information*

3549.1 *Meeting and negotiating in public educational employment*

6250-6270 *Inspection of public records*

54950-54963 *Brown Act, especially:*

54956.8 *Open meeting laws*

54956.9 *Closed meeting for pending litigation*

54957 *Closed session; "employee" defined; exclusion of witnesses*

54957.1 *Subsequent public report and rollcall vote; employee matters in closed session*

54957.5 *Public records*

54957.6 *Closed session; representatives with employee organization*

54957.7 *Reasons for closed session*

54963 *Confidential information in closed session*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 231 (1997)*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards, November 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Board of Directors recognizes that electronic communication among Board members and between Board members, Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) administration, and members of the public is an efficient and convenient way to communicate and expedite the exchange of information and to help keep the community informed about the goals, programs, and achievements of SCVSFSA. Board members shall exercise caution so as to ensure that electronic communications are not used as a means for the Board to deliberate outside of an agendaized Board meeting not to circumvent the public's right to access records regarding district business.

(cf. 1100 - Communication with the Public)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

A majority of the Board shall not, outside of an authorized meeting, use a series of electronic communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Government Code 54952.2)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Examples of permissible electronic communications concerning SCVSFSA business include, but are not limited to, dissemination of Board meeting agendas and agenda packets, reports of activities from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places.

In addition, Board members may use electronic communications to discuss matters that do not pertain to agency business, regardless of the number of Board members participating in the discussion.

Board members shall make every effort to ensure that their electronic communications conform to the same standards and protocols established for other forms of communication. A Board member may respond, as appropriate, to an electronic communication received from a member of the community and should make clear that his/her response does not necessarily reflect the views of the Board as a whole. Any complaint or request for information should be forwarded to the CEO in accordance with Board bylaws and protocols so that the issue may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate SCVSFSA process. As appropriate, communication received from the press shall be forwarded to the designated SCVSFSA spokesperson.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

- (cf. 1112 - Media Relations)*
- (cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*
- (cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*
- (cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*
- (cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)*
- (cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)*
- (cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)*
- (cf. 9121 - Board President)*
- (cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)*

To the extent possible, electronic communications regarding any agency-related business shall be transmitted through an agency-provided device or account. When any such communication is transmitted through a Board member's personal device or account, he/she shall copy the communication to an agency electronic storage device for easy retrieval.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 35800 – District Records)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35140 *Time and place of meetings*

35145 *Public meetings*

35145.5 *Agenda; public participation; regulations*

35147 *Open meeting law exceptions and applications*

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 California Public Records Act

11135 *State programs and activities, discrimination*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*

54952.2 *Meeting, defined*

54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance*

54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements, board actions*

COURT DECISIONS

City of San Jose v. Superior Court (2017) 2 Cal5th 608

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Legal Alert: Tips for Governing Boards in Response to Public Records Act Ruling on electronic Communications, March 2017

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2006

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies, 2003

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act, rev. 2007

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CSBA, Agenda Online:

<http://www.csba.org/Services/Services/GovernanceTechnology/AgendaOnline.aspx>

~~Institute for Local Government: <http://www.cacities.org/index.jsp?zone=ilsg>~~

California Attorney General's Office: <http://oag.ca.gov>

Bylaw

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES AGENCY

adopted: May 15, 2012

Valencia, California

Updated: October 26, 2017

ORGANIZATION

Annual Organizational Meeting

Each year, the Board of Directors shall hold an annual organizational meeting within the time limits prescribed by law. (Education Code 35143)

At this meeting the Board shall:

1. Elect a president and a clerk and/or vice president from its members
2. Appoint the CEO as secretary to the Board
3. Authorize signatures
4. Approve a schedule of regular meetings for the year
5. Designate Board representatives to serve on committees or commissions of the SCVSFSA, other public agencies, or organizations with which the SCVSFSA partners or collaborates.
6. Review and/or consider resources that define and clarify the Board's governance and leadership roles and responsibilities including, but not limited to, governance standards, meeting protocols, Board rules and bylaws, Board effectiveness evaluation and other Board development materials.

(cf. 9000 – Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 – Governance Standards)

(cf. 9230 – Orientation)

(cf. 9240 – Board Development)

(cf. 9320 – Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9323 – Meeting Conduct)

Election of Officers

The Board shall each year elect its entire slate of officers.

No Board member shall serve more than two consecutive years in the same office.

(cf. 9224 - Oath or Affirmation)

The election of Board officers shall be conducted during an open session of the annual organizational meeting.

Board Bylaws

BB 9100(b)

ORGANIZATION

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

5017 *Term of Office*

35143 *Annual organizational meeting date, and notice*

35145 *Public meetings*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

68 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 65 (1985)*

59 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 619, 621-622 (1976)*

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PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors shall elect a president from among its members to provide leadership on behalf of the Board and the educational community it serves.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9100 - Organization)

The president shall preside at all Board meetings. He/she shall:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time
2. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order
3. Enforce the Board's policies relating to the conduct of meetings and help ensure compliance with applicable requirements of the Brown Act
4. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference
5. Explain what the effect of a motion would be if it is not clear to every member
6. Restrict discussion to the question when a motion is before the Board
7. Rule on issues of parliamentary procedure
8. Put motions to a vote, and state clearly the results of the vote
9. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

The president shall perform other duties in accordance with law and Board policy including, but not limited to:

1. Signing all instruments, acts and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board
2. Consulting with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee on the preparation of the Board's agendas

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

3. Working with the CEO to ensure that Board members have necessary materials and information

PRESIDENT (continued)

4. Subject to Board approval, appointing and dissolving all committees

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

5. Calling such meetings of the Board as he/she may deem necessary, giving notice as prescribed by law

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

6. Representing the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency as governance spokesperson, in conjunction with the CEO

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

The president shall have the same rights as other members of the Board, including the right to move, second, discuss and vote on all questions before the Board.

When the president resigns or is absent or disabled, the vice president shall perform the president's duties. When both the president and vice president are absent or disabled, the clerk shall perform the president's duties.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35022 *President of the board*

35143 *Annual organizational meetings; dates and notice*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *Ralph M. Brown Act*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Board Presidents' Handbook, revised 2002

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

SECRETARY

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to serve as secretary to the Board. The secretary to the Board shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate and complete record of all Board proceedings and shall:

1. Prepare, distribute and maintain the Board agenda
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)
2. Record, distribute and maintain the Board minutes
(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)
3. Maintain Board records and documents
4. Conduct official correspondence for the Board
5. As directed by the Board, sign and execute official papers
6. Perform other duties as assigned by the Board

(cf. 2111 - Superintendent Governance Standards)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35025 *Secretary and bookkeeper*

35143 *Annual organizational meetings; dates and notice*

35250 *Duty to keep certain records and reports*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *Ralph M. Brown Act*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CLERK

The Board of Directors shall elect a clerk from its own membership at the annual organizational meeting. (Education Code 35143)

(cf. 9100 - Organization)

The duties of the clerk shall be to:

1. Certify or attest to actions taken by the Board when required
2. Maintain such other records or reports as required by law
3. Sign documents on behalf of the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency as directed by the Board
4. Serve as presiding officer in the absence of the president and vice president

(cf. 9121 - President)

5. Notify Board members and members-elect of the date and time for the annual organizational meeting
6. Perform any other duties assigned by the Board

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 17593 Repair and supervision of property (duty of district clerk)*
- 35038 Appointment of clerk by county superintendent of schools*
- 35039 Dismissal of clerk*
- 35121 Appointment of clerk in certain city and high school districts*
- 35143 Annual organizational meetings*
- 35250 Duty to keep certain records and reports*
- 38113 Duty of clerk (re provision of school supplies)*

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 54950-54963 Ralph M. Brown Act*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

- CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000*
- Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996*

WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>*

ATTORNEY

The Board of Directors recognizes the complex legal environment in which Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) operates and desires reliable, high-quality legal advice at reasonable rates. In order to meet SCVSFSA's legal needs, the Board may contract with county counsel, attorneys in private practice, or appoint legal counsel as a SCVSFSA employee or independent contractor. The Board also supports pursuing collaborative legal efforts with other agencies and districts as appropriate.

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 3400 - Management of District Assets/Accounts)
(cf. 4312.1 - Contracts)
(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9260 - Legal Protection)

Duties of Legal Counsel

The SCVSFSA's legal counsel may: (Education Code 35041.5)

1. Render legal advice to the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee
2. Serve the Board and the CEO or designee in the preparation and conduct of SCVSFSA litigation and administrative proceedings
3. Render advice on school bond and tax increase measures and prepare the necessary forms for the voting of these measures
4. Perform other administrative duties as assigned by the Board and CEO or designee

Retaining Legal Counsel

When SCVSFSA is seeking legal advice or representation, the CEO or designee shall initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) to advertise and solicit proposals for legal services. In evaluating the proposals, the Board and CEO shall consider the firm's or attorney's background, experience, and reputation in education law; experience advising or representing school districts in California; fees; and experience of attorneys at the firm who will provide legal services.

The Board and CEO shall annually evaluate the performance of the firm and/or attorneys providing legal services in such areas as efficiency and adequacy of advice; results obtained for SCVSFSA; reasonableness of fees; and responsiveness to and interactions with the Board, administration, and community. Upon a successful evaluation, the Board may renew the agreement with legal counsel without initiating an RFP.

The Board may also contract for temporary, specialized legal services without initiating an RFP when a majority of the Board determines that the unique demands of a particular issue or emergency situation so requires.

ATTORNEY (continued)

(cf. 2121 - Superintendent's Contract)

Contacting Legal Counsel

At his/her discretion, the Board president or CEO may confer with SCVSFSA legal counsel subject to any limits or parameters established by the Board. In addition, the CEO or Board president may contact SCVSFSA legal counsel to provide the Board with legal information or advice when so directed by a majority of the Board.

Individual Board members other than the Board president may not seek advice from SCVSFSA legal counsel on matters of SCVSFSA business unless so authorized by a majority of the Board.

(cf. 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority)
(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35041 Administrative adviser
35041.5 Legal counsel
35161 Powers and duties of governing board
35200-35214 Liabilities, especially:
35204 Contract with attorney in private practice
35205 Contract for legal services

GOVERNMENT CODE

814-895.8 Liability of public entities and public employees
995-996.6 Defense of public employees
26520 Legal services to school districts
53060 Special services and advice

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2007
Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996
NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS
Selecting and Working with a School Attorney: A Guide for School Boards, 1997

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Council of School Attorneys:
<http://www.csba.org/LegislationAndLegal/Legal/CaliforniaCouncilOfSchoolAttorneys.aspx>
National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>
State Bar of California: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>

LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

The Board of Directors recognizes that the Board is the unit of authority over the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) and that a Board member has no individual authority. Board members shall hold the interest of the agency above any partisan principle, group interest, or personal interest.

(cf. 1160 - Political Processes)
(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Unless agreed to by the Board as a whole, individual members of the Board shall not exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the agency or command the services of any employee. Individual Board members shall submit requests for information to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Board members shall refer Board-related correspondence to the CEO for forwarding to the Board or for placement on the Board's agenda, as appropriate.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Individual Board members do not have the authority to resolve complaints. Any Board member approached directly by a person with a complaint should refer the complainant to the CEO or designee so that the problem may receive proper consideration and be handled through the appropriate SCVSFSA process.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)
(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

The CEO or designee shall provide a copy of the state's open meeting laws (Brown Act) to each Board member and to anyone who is elected to the Board but has not yet assumed office.

Board members and persons appointed to the Board who have not yet assumed office are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.1)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

LIMITS OF BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination*

7054 *Use of district property*

35010 *Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*

35100-35351 *Governing boards, especially:*

35160-35184 *Powers and duties*

35291 *Rules*

35292 *Visits to schools (Board members)*

51101 *Rights of parents/guardians*

GOVERNMENT CODE

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

54952.1 *Member of a legislative body of a local agency*

54952.7 *Copies of chapter to members of legislative body*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

CSBA Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardmanship, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Members appointed to the Board of Directors are entrusted with the responsibility of governing Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency. The Board recognizes that its members need training that helps them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education, and develop boardsmanship skills.

All Board members may attend conferences for the purpose of Board development. Board business shall not be discussed at conferences.

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Board members shall report to the Board, orally or in writing, as soon as possible on the inservice activities they attend.

Funds for Board development shall be budgeted annually for each Board member.

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:

54952.2 Meeting

REMUNERATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS

Reimbursement of Expenses

Members of the Board of Directors shall be reimbursed for traveling expenses incurred when authorized in advance by the Board. (Education Code 35044)

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

The rate of reimbursement shall be the same rate specified for Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) personnel.

(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)

Board members may use SCVSFSA-issued credit cards while on official SCVSFSA business. Under no circumstances may personal expenses be charged on SCVSFSA credit cards.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1090 Compensation for members and mileage allowance

33050-33053 General waiver authority

33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses (Department of Education and CSBA workshops)

35012 Board members; number, election and term

35044 Payment of traveling expenses of representatives of board

35120 Compensation (services as member of governing board)

35172 Promotional activities

44038 Cash deposits for transportation purchased on credit

GOVERNMENT CODE

20322 Elective officers; election to become member

53200-53209 Group insurance

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 26

403(b) Tax-sheltered annuities

COURT DECISIONS

Thorning v. Hollister School District, (1992) 11 Cal.App.4th 1598

Board of Education of the Palo Alto Unified School District v. Superior Court of Santa Clara County,

(1979) 93 Cal.App.3d 578

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

83 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 124 (2000)*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Public Employees' Retirement System: <http://www.calpers.ca.gov>

LEGAL PROTECTION

Liability Insurance

The Board of Directors shall provide insurance necessary to protect Board members and employees while acting within the scope of their office or employment in accordance with Education Code 35208.

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

Protection Against Liability

No Board member shall be liable for harm caused by his/her act or omission when acting within the scope of Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency responsibilities. The act or omission must be in conformity with federal, state, and local laws and made in furtherance of an effort to control in any agency program or activity. (20 USC 6736)

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC 6736)

1. The Board member acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the harmed person's right to safety.
2. The Board member caused harm by operating a motor vehicle.
3. The Board member was not properly licensed, if required, by the State for such activities.
4. The Board member was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The Board member was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the Board member has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the Board member has been convicted in a court.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

LEGAL PROTECTION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17029.5 *Contract funding; board liability*

35208 *Liability insurance*

35214 *Liability insurance (self-insurance or a combination of self-insurance and insurance through an insurance company)*

GOVERNMENT CODE

815.3 *Intentional torts*

820-823 *Tort Claims Act*

825.6 *Indemnification of public entity*

1090-1098 *Conflicts of interest, prohibitions applicable to specified officers*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act*

87100-89503 *Conflicts of interest*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

16 *Crime of violence defined*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6731-6738 *Teacher Protection Act*

COURT DECISIONS

Caldwell v. Montoya (Paramount Unified School District) 10 Cal 4th 972 (1995)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Board of Directors desires to maintain the highest ethical standards and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) and the public. In accordance with law, Board members and designated employees shall disclose any conflict of interest and, as necessary, shall abstain from participating in the decision.

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

Upon direction by the code reviewing body, the Board shall review SCVSFSA's conflict of interest code and submit any changes to the code reviewing body.

When a change in SCVSFSA's conflict of interest code is necessitated due to changed circumstances, such as the creation of new designated positions, changes to the duties assigned to existing positions, amendments, or revisions, the amended code shall be submitted to the code reviewing body within 90 days. (Government Code 87306)

When reviewing and preparing SCVSFSA's conflict of interest code, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee shall provide officers, employees, consultants, and members of the community adequate notice and a fair opportunity to present their views. (Government Code 87311)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Board members and designated employees shall annually file a Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories specified in SCVSFSA's conflict of interest code. A Board member who leaves office or a designated employee who leaves SCVSFSA employment shall, within 30 days, file a revised statement covering the period of time between the closing date of the last statement and the date of leaving office or SCVSFSA employment. (Government Code 87302, 87500)

(cf. 4117.2/4217.2/4317.2 - Resignation)

(cf. 9222 - Resignation)

Conflict of Interest under the Political Reform Act

A Board member or designated employee shall not make, participate in making, or in any way use or attempt to use his/her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he/she knows or has reason to know that he/she has a disqualifying conflict of interest. A conflict of interest exists if the decision will have a "reasonably foreseeable material financial effect" on one or more of the Board member's or designated employee's "economic

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

interests," unless the effect is indistinguishable from the effect on the public generally or the Board member's or designated employee's participation is legally required. (Government Code 87100, 87101, 87103; 2 CCR 18700-18709)

A Board member or designated employee makes a governmental decision when, acting within the authority of his/her office or position, he/she votes on a matter, appoints a person, obligates or commits SCVSFSA to any course of action, or enters into any contractual agreement on behalf of SCVSFSA. (2 CCR 18702.1)

A Board member who has a disqualifying conflict of interest on an agenda item that will be heard in an open meeting of the Board shall abstain from voting on the matter. He/she may remain on the dais, but his/her presence shall not be counted towards achieving a quorum for that matter. A Board member with a disqualifying conflict of interest shall not be present during a closed session meeting of the Board when the decision is considered and shall not obtain or review a recording or any other nonpublic information regarding the issue. (2 CCR 18702.1)

Additional Requirements for Boards that Manage Public Investments

A Board member who manages public investments pursuant to Government Code 87200 and who has a financial interest in a decision shall, upon identifying a conflict or potential conflict of interest and immediately prior to the consideration of the matter, do all of the following: (Government Code 87105; 2 CCR 18702.5)

1. Publicly identify each financial interest that gives rise to the conflict or potential conflict of interest in detail sufficient to be understood by the public, except that disclosure of the exact street address of a residence is not required.
2. Recuse himself/herself from discussing and voting on the matter, or otherwise acting in violation of Government Code 87100. The Board member shall not be counted toward achieving a quorum while the item is discussed.

However, the Board member may speak on the issue during the time that the general public speaks on it and may leave the dais to speak from the same area as members of the public. He/she may listen to the public discussion of the matter with members of the public.

3. Leave the room until after the discussion, vote, and any other disposition of the matter is concluded, unless the matter has been placed on the portion of the agenda reserved for uncontested matters.

If the item is on the consent calendar, the Board member must recuse himself/herself from discussing or voting on that matter, but the Board member is not required to leave the room during consideration of the consent calendar.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

4. If the Board's decision is made during closed session, disclose his/her interest orally during the open session preceding the closed session. This disclosure shall be limited to a declaration that his/her recusal is because of a conflict of interest pursuant to Government Code 87100. He/she shall not be present when the item is considered in closed session and shall not knowingly obtain or review a recording or any other nonpublic information regarding the Board's decision.

(cf. 3430 - Investing)

Conflict of Interest under Government Code 1090

Board members, employees, or SCVSFSA consultants shall not be financially interested in any contract made by the Board on behalf of SCVSFSA, including in the development, preliminary discussions, negotiations, compromises, planning, reasoning, and specifications and solicitations for bids. If a Board member has such a financial interest, the SCVSFSA is barred from entering into the contract. (Government Code 1090; Klistoff v. Superior Court, (2007) 157 Cal.App. 4th 469)

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract if his/her interest is a "noninterest" as defined in Government Code 1091.5. One such noninterest is when a Board member's spouse/registered domestic partner has been a SCVSFSA employee for at least one year prior to the Board member's election or appointment. (Government Code 1091.5)

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract if he/she has only a "remote interest" in the contract as specified in Government Code 1091 and if the remote interest is disclosed during a Board meeting and noted in the official Board minutes. The affected Board member shall not vote or debate on the matter or attempt to influence any other Board member to enter into the contract. (Government Code 1091)

Even if there is not a prohibited conflict of interest, a Board member shall abstain from voting on personnel matters that uniquely affect his/her relatives. However, a Board member may vote on collective bargaining agreements and personnel matters that affect a class of employees to which his/her relative belongs. *Relative* means an adult who is related to the Board member by blood or affinity within the third degree, as determined by the common law, or an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree. (Education Code 35107)

A relationship within the third degree includes an individual's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and the similar family of the individual's spouse/registered domestic partner unless the individual is widowed or divorced.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

Common Law Doctrine Against Conflict of Interest

A Board member shall abstain from any official action in which his/her private or personal interest may conflict with his/her official duties.

Rule of Necessity or Legally Required Participation

On a case-by-case basis and upon advice of legal counsel, a Board member with a financial interest in a contract may participate in the making of the contract if the rule of necessity or legally required participation applies pursuant to Government Code 87101 and 2 CCR 18708.

Incompatible Offices and Activities

Board members shall not engage in any employment or activity or hold any office which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, in conflict with, or inimical to the Board member's duties as an officer of SCVSFSA. (Government Code 1099, 1126)

(cf. 4136/4236/4336 - Nonschool Employment)

Gifts

Board members and designated employees may accept gifts only under the conditions and limitations specified in Government Code 89503 and 2 CCR 18730.

The limitation on gifts does not apply to wedding gifts and gifts exchanged between individuals on birthdays, holidays, and other similar occasions, provided that the gifts exchanged are not substantially disproportionate in value. (Government Code 89503)

Gifts of travel and related lodging and subsistence shall be subject to the current gift limitation except as described in Government Code 89506.

A gift of travel does not include travel provided by SCVSFSA for Board members and designated employees. (Government Code 89506)

Honoraria

Board members and designated employees shall not accept any honorarium, which is defined as any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any public or private gathering, in accordance with law. (Government Code 89501, 89502)

The term *honorarium* does not include: (Government Code 89501)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

1. Earned income for personal services customarily provided in connection with a bona fide business, trade, or profession unless the sole or predominant activity of the business, trade, or profession is making speeches
2. Any honorarium which is not used and, within 30 days after receipt, is either returned to the donor or delivered to SCVSFSA for donation into the general fund without being claimed as a deduction from income for tax purposes

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1006 *Qualifications for holding office*

35107 *School district employees*

35230-35240 *Corrupt practices, especially:*

35233 *Prohibitions applicable to members of governing boards*

41000-41003 *Moneys received by school districts*

FAMILY CODE

297.5 *Rights, protections, and benefits of registered domestic partners*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090-1099 *Prohibitions applicable to specified officers*

1125-1129 *Incompatible activities*

81000-91014 *Political Reform Act of 1974, especially:*

82011 *Code reviewing body*

87100-87103.6 *General prohibitions*

87200-87210 *Disclosure*

87300-87313 *Conflict of interest code*

87500 *Statements of economic interests*

89501-89503 *Honoraria and gifts*

91000-91014 *Enforcement*

PENAL CODE

85-88 *Bribes*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18110-18997 *Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, especially:*

18702.5 *Public identification of a conflict of interest for Section 87200 filers*

COURT DECISIONS

Klistoff v. Superior Court, (2007) 157 Cal.App.4th 469

Thorpe v. Long Beach Community College District, (2000) 83 Cal.App.4th 655

Kunec v. Brea Redevelopment Agency, (1997) 55 Cal.App.4th 511

Legal References continued: (see next page)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

92 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 26 (2009)

92 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 19 (2009)

89 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 217 (2006)

86 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 138(2003)

85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 60 (2002)

82 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 83 (1999)

81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 327 (1998)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 320 (1997)

69 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 255 (1986)

68 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 171 (1985)

65 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 606 (1982)

63 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 868 (1980)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Conflict of Interest: Overview of Key Issues for Governing Board Members, Fact Sheet, July 2010

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

Can I Vote? A Basic Overview of Public Officials' Obligations Under the Conflict-of-Interest Rules, 2005

INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Understanding the Basics of Public Service Ethics: Personal Financial Gain Laws, 2009

Understanding the Basics of Public Service Ethics: Transparency Laws, 2009

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

Institute of Local Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

WHEREAS, the Political Reform Act, Government Code 87300-87313, requires each public agency in California to adopt a conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) has previously adopted a local conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, past and future amendments to the Political Reform Act and implementing regulations may require conforming amendments to be made to SCVSFSA's conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, a regulation adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, 2 CCR 18730, provides that incorporation by reference of the terms of that regulation, along with an agency-specific appendix designating positions and disclosure categories shall constitute the adoption and amendment of a conflict of interest code in conformance with Government Code 87300 and 87306; and

WHEREAS, the SCVSFSA has recently reviewed its positions, and the duties of each position, and has determined that (changes/no changes) to the current conflict of interest code are necessary; and

WHEREAS, any earlier resolutions, bylaws, and/or appendices containing SCVSFSA's conflict of interest code shall be rescinded and superseded by this resolution and Appendix; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SCVSFSA Board of Directors adopts the following Conflict of Interest Code including its Appendix of Designated Employees and Disclosure Categories.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____, _____ at a meeting, by the following vote:

AYES:_____ NOES:_____ ABSENT:_____

Attest:

Secretary/President

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)**Conflict of Interest Code of the
Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency**

The provisions of 2 CCR 18730 and any amendments to it adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, together with the attached Appendix specifying designated positions and disclosure categories, are incorporated by reference and shall constitute the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency's (SCVSFSA) conflict of interest code.

Members of the Board of Directors and designated employees shall file a Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories listed in the attached Appendix. The Statement of Economic Interest shall be filed with SCVSFSA's filing officer and/or, if so required, with the SCVSFSA's code reviewing body. SCVSFSA's filing officer shall make the statements available for public review and inspection.

APPENDIX**Disclosure Categories**

1. **Category 1:** A person designated Category 1 shall disclose:
 - a. Interests in real property located entirely or partly within any SCVSFSA member district's boundaries, or within two miles of any such member district's boundaries, or of any land owned or used by any such member district.
 - b. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which are engaged in the acquisition or disposal of real property within any SCVSFSA member district, are contractors or subcontractors which are or have been within the past two years engaged in work or services of the type used by SCVSFSA, or manufacture or sell supplies, books, machinery, or equipment of the type used by SCVSFSA.
2. **Category 2:** A person designated Category 2 shall disclose:
 - a. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which are contractors or subcontractors engaged in work or services of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs.
 - b. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which manufacture or sell supplies, books, machinery, or equipment of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

3. **Full Disclosure:** Because it has been determined that the SCVSFSA's Board members and/or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) "manage public investments," they and other persons designated for "full disclosure" shall disclose, in accordance with Government Code 87200:
- a. Interests in real property located entirely or partly within any SCVSFSA member district's boundaries, or within two miles of any such member district's boundaries, or of any land owned or used by any such member district.
 - b. Investments, business positions, and sources of income, including gifts, loans, and travel payments.

Designated Positions

<u>Designated Position</u>	<u>Disclosure Category</u>
Member of Board of Directors	1
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	1
Assistant/Associate CEO	1
Purchasing Agent	1
Director	2
Maintenance and Operations Director	2
Supervisor	2

Disclosures for Consultants

Consultants are designated employees who must disclose financial interests as determined on a case-by-case basis by the CEO or designee. The CEO or designee's written determination shall include a description of the consultant's duties and a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements based upon that description. All such determinations are public records and shall be retained for public inspection along with this conflict of interest code.

A consultant is an individual who, pursuant to a contract with SCVSFSA, makes a governmental decision whether to: (2 CCR 18701)

1. Approve a rate, rule, or regulation
2. Adopt or enforce a law
3. Issue, deny, suspend, or revoke a permit, license, application, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization or entitlement
4. Authorize the SCVSFSA to enter into, modify, or renew a contract that requires SCVSFSA approval

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (continued)

5. Grant SCVSFSA approval to a contract that requires SCVSFSA approval and in which the SCVSFSA is a party, or to the specifications for such a contract
6. Grant SCVSFSA approval to a plan, design, report, study, or similar item
7. Adopt or grant SCVSFSA approval of SCVSFSA policies, standards, or guidelines

A consultant is also an individual who, pursuant to a contract with the SCVSFSA, serves in a staff capacity with the SCVSFSA and in that capacity participates in making a governmental decision as defined in 2 CCR 18702.2 or performs the same or substantially all the same duties for SCVSFSA that would otherwise be performed by an individual holding a position specified in SCVSFSA's conflict of interest code. (2 CCR 18701)

BOARD POLICIES

The Board of Directors shall adopt written policies to convey its expectations for actions that will be taken in the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA), clarify roles and responsibilities of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and communicate Board philosophy and positions to the students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0100 - Philosophy)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

The Board recognizes the importance of maintaining a policy manual that is up to date and reflects the mandates of law. Policies shall be regularly reviewed at a time allocated for this purpose on the agenda of public Board meetings.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9322 - Agendas/Meeting Materials)

The Board monitor and review Board policies as specified in the policy itself or as needed to reflect changes in law or SCVSFSA circumstances.

(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

Policy Development and Adoption Process

The SCVSFSA's policy development process shall include the following basic steps:

1. The Board and/or CEO or designee shall identify the need for a new policy or revision of an existing policy. The need may arise from a change in law, a new SCVSFSA vision or goals, program research or trends, or a change in the Board membership. The need may also occur as a result of an incident that has arisen in SCVSFSA or a recommendation or request from staff or other interested persons.
2. As needed, the CEO or designee shall gather fiscal and other data, staff and public input, related SCVSFSA policies, sample policies from other organizations or agencies, and other useful information to fully inform the Board about the issue.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

3. The Board may hold discussions during a public Board meeting to gain an understanding of the issue and provide initial direction to the CEO or designee. The discussion may include, but not be limited to, how the proposed policy may affect student learning, community expectations, staff recommendations, fiscal impact, as well as the policy's impact on governance and operational efficiency.

BOARD POLICIES (continued)

4. The Board or CEO may request that legal counsel review the draft policy as appropriate.
5. The CEO or designee shall develop and present a draft policy for a first reading at a public Board meeting. At its second reading, the Board may take action on the proposed policy. The Board may waive the second reading or may require an additional reading if necessary.

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Only policies formally adopted by a majority vote of the Board shall constitute official Board policy.

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

The SCVSFSA's policy development process may be revised or expanded as needed based on the issue being considered, the need for more information, or to provide greater opportunities for consultation and public input.

Policies shall become effective upon Board adoption or at a future date designated by the Board at the time of adoption.

Board Bylaws

The Board shall prescribe and enforce rules for its own government consistent with state law and regulations. (Education Code 35010)

Bylaws governing Board operations may be developed, adopted, and amended following the same procedures as those used for the adoption or amendment of Board policy.

Administrative Regulations

The CEO or designee shall be responsible for developing and enforcing administrative regulations for the operation of the SCVSFSA. Administrative regulations shall be consistent with law and Board policy and shall be designed to promote the achievement of SCVSFSA goals and objectives. Administrative regulations may describe specific actions to be taken, roles and responsibilities of staff, timelines, and/or other necessary provisions. The CEO or designee also may develop procedures manuals, handbooks, or other guides to carry out the intent of Board policy.

When Board policies are amended, the CEO or designee shall review corresponding regulations to ensure that they conform to the intent of the revised policy. In case of conflict between administrative regulation and Board policy, policy shall prevail.

BOARD POLICIES (continued)

The Board may review and/or approve regulations for the purpose of ensuring conformity with the intent of Board policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At the time a policy is adopted, the Board and CEO or designee shall determine whether an evaluation of the policy should be scheduled and, if so, shall agree upon a timeline and measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its purpose.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

Access to Policies

The CEO or designee shall ensure that all SCVSFSA employees and the public have access to an up-to-date SCVSFSA policy manual. A public copy of the policy manual shall be maintained at the SCVSFSA office. These copies shall be maintained either electronically or by paper copy.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

As necessary, the CEO or designee shall notify staff, parents/guardians, students, and other stakeholders whenever a policy that affects them is adopted or revised. He/she may determine the appropriate communications strategy depending on the issue.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Suspension of Policies

No Board policy, bylaw, or administrative regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if it is found to be in conflict with applicable federal or state law or regulations or court decisions. If any portion of a policy is found to be invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the policy.

(cf. 2210 - Administrative Discretion Regarding Board Policy)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

BOARD POLICIES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.5 Annual review of school district policies

35163 Official actions, minutes and journal

35164 Vote requirements

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Targeting Student Learning: The School Board's Role as Policymaker, 2005

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Policy, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA, Policy Services, including Policy Update Service, Governance and Management Using Technology (GAMUT Online™), Policy Audit Program, Individual District Policy Workshops, Agenda Online, and Manual Maintenance: <http://www.csba.org/ps>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

MEETINGS AND NOTICES

Meetings of the Board of Directors are conducted for the purpose of accomplishing Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) business. In accordance with state open meeting laws (Brown Act), the Board shall hold its meetings in public and shall conduct closed sessions during such meetings only as authorized by law. To encourage community involvement in agency affairs, Board meetings shall provide opportunities for questions and comments by members of the public. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with law and the Board's bylaws, policies, and administrative regulations.

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)
(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

A Board meeting exists whenever a majority of Board members gather at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board or SCVSFSA. (Government Code 54952.2)

A majority of the Board shall not, outside of an authorized meeting, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. However, an employee or SCVSFSA official may engage in separate conversations with Board members in order to answer questions or provide information regarding an item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, as long as that employee or SCVSFSA official does not communicate the comments or position of any Board members to other Board members. (Government Code 54952.2)

In order to help ensure participation in the meeting by disabled individuals, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee shall provide appropriate disability-related accommodations or modifications upon request in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Government Code 54953.2, 54954.1)

Meeting notices and agendas shall specify that any individual who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board meeting should contact the CEO or designee. (Government Code 54954.2)

Each agenda shall also list the address(es) designated by the CEO or designee for public inspection of agenda documents that are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting. (Government Code 54957.5)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

Regular Meetings

The Board shall hold one regular meeting each month. Regular meetings shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday at SCVSFSA's Conference Room.

MEETINGS AND NOTICES (continued)

At least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, the agenda shall be posted at one or more locations freely accessible to members of the public. (Government Code 54954.2)

Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the presiding officer or a majority of the Board members. (Government Code 54956)

Written notice of special meetings shall be delivered personally or by any other means to all Board members and the local media who have requested such notice in writing. The notice shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting. The notice shall also be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting in a location freely accessible to the public. The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted or discussed. No other business shall be considered at this meeting. (Education Code 35144; Government Code 54956)

Any Board member may waive the 24-hour written notice requirement prior to the time of the meeting by filing a written waiver of notice with the clerk or secretary of the Board or by being present at the meeting at the time it convenes. (Government Code 54956)

Every notice of a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board concerning any item that has been described in the meeting notice, before or during the item's consideration. (Government Code 54954.3)

Emergency Meetings

In the case of an *emergency situation* for which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, the Board may hold an emergency meeting without complying with the 24-hour notice and/or 24-hour posting requirement for special meetings pursuant to Government Code 54956. The Board shall comply with all other requirements for special meetings during an emergency meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

An *emergency situation* means either of the following: (Government Code 54956.5)

1. An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board

(cf. 4141.6/4241.6 - Concerted Action/Work Stoppage)

MEETINGS AND NOTICES (continued)

2. A dire emergency, which shall be defined as a crippling disaster, mass destruction, terrorist activity, or threatened terrorist act that poses peril so immediate and significant that requiring the Board to provide one-hour notice before holding an emergency meeting may endanger the public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

Except in the case of a dire emergency, the Board president or designee shall give notice of the emergency meeting by telephone at least one hour before the meeting to the local media that have requested notice of special meetings. All telephone numbers provided by the media in the most recent request for notification must be exhausted. If telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirement of one hour is waived and, as soon after the meeting as possible, the Board shall notify those media representatives of the meeting and shall describe the purpose of the meeting and any action taken by the Board. In the case of a dire emergency, the Board president or designee shall give such notice at or near the time he/she notifies the other members of the Board about the meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

The minutes of the meeting, a list of persons the Board president or designee notified or attempted to notify, a copy of the roll call vote, and any actions taken at the meeting shall be posted for at least 10 days in a public place as soon after the meeting as possible. (Government Code 54956.5)

Adjourned/Continued Meetings

A majority vote by the Board may adjourn/continue any regular or special meeting to a later time and place that shall be specified in the order of adjournment. Less than a quorum of the Board may adjourn such a meeting. If no Board members are present, the secretary or the clerk may declare the meeting adjourned to a later time and shall give notice in the same manner required for special meetings. (Government Code 54955)

Within 24 hours after the time of adjournment, a copy of the order or notice of adjournment/continuance shall be conspicuously posted on or near the door of the place where the meeting was held. (Government Code 54955)

Study Sessions, Retreats, Public Forums, and Discussion Meetings

The Board may occasionally convene a study session or public forum to study an issue in more detail or to receive information from staff or feedback from members of the public.

The Board may also convene a retreat or discussion meeting to discuss Board roles and relationships.

MEETINGS AND NOTICES (continued)

(cf. 2000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 2111 - Superintendent Governance Standards)

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

Public notice shall be given in accordance with law when a quorum of the Board is attending a study session, retreat, public forum, or discussion meeting. All such meetings shall comply with the Brown Act and shall be held in open session and within SCVSFSA member districts' boundaries. Action items shall not be included on the agenda for these meetings.

Other Gatherings

Attendance by a majority of Board members at any of the following events is not subject to the Brown Act provided that a majority of the Board members do not discuss specific SCVSFSA business among themselves other than as part of the scheduled program: (Government Code 54952.2)

1. A conference or similar public gathering open to the public that involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or to school board members
2. An open, publicized meeting organized by a person or organization other than SCVSFSA to address a topic of local community concern
3. An open and noticed meeting of another body of SCVSFSA
4. An open and noticed meeting of a legislative body of another local agency
5. A purely social or ceremonial occasion
6. An open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of the Board, provided that the Board members who are not members of the standing committee attend only as observers

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

Individual contacts or conversations between a Board member and any other person are not subject to the Brown Act. (Government Code 54952.2)

MEETINGS AND NOTICES (continued)

Location of Meetings

Meetings shall not be held in a facility that prohibits the admittance of any person on the basis of ancestry or any characteristic listed in Government Code 11135, including, but not limited to, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. In addition, meetings shall not be held in a facility which is inaccessible to disabled persons or where members of the public must make a payment or purchase in order to be admitted. (Government Code 54961)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Meetings shall be held within SCVSFSA member districts' boundaries, except as authorized by Government Code 54954.

Meetings exempted from the boundary requirements shall still be subject to the notice and open meeting requirements for regular and special meetings when a quorum of the Board attends the meeting.

If a fire, flood, earthquake, or other emergency renders the regular meeting place unsafe, meetings shall be held for the duration of the emergency at a place designated by the Board president or designee, who shall so inform all news media who have requested notice of special meetings by the most rapid available means of communication. (Government Code 54954)

Teleconferencing

A teleconference is a meeting of the Board in which Board members are in different locations, connected by electronic means through audio and/or video. (Government Code 54953)

The Board may use teleconferences for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. All votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by roll call. (Government Code 54953)

During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the Board shall participate from locations within SCVSFSA member districts' boundaries. (Government Code 54953)

Agendas shall be posted at all teleconference locations and shall list all teleconference locations whenever they are posted elsewhere. Additional teleconference locations may be provided to the public. (Government Code 54953)

MEETINGS AND NOTICES (continued)

All teleconference locations shall be accessible to the public. All teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the Board, including the right of the public to address the Board directly at each teleconference location. (Government Code 54953)

All Board policies, administrative regulations, and bylaws shall apply equally to meetings that are teleconferenced. The CEO or designee shall facilitate public participation in the meeting at each teleconference location.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

MEETINGS AND NOTICES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35140 *Time and place of meetings*
- 35143 *Annual organizational meeting, date, and notice*
- 35144 *Special meeting*
- 35145 *Public meetings*
- 35145.5 *Agenda; public participation; regulations*
- 35146 *Closed sessions*
- 35147 *Open meeting law exceptions and applications*

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 11135 *State programs and activities, discrimination*
- 54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*
- 54953 *Meetings to be open and public; attendance*
- 54954 *Time and place of regular meetings*
- 54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements, board actions*
- 54956 *Special meetings; call; notice*
- 54956.5 *Emergency meetings*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

- 12101-12213 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

- 35.160 *Effective communications*
- 36.303 *Auxiliary aids and services*

COURT DECISIONS

- Wolfe v. City of Fremont*, (2006) 144 Cal.App. 544

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- 88 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 218 (2005)
- 84 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 181 (2001)
- 84 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 30 (2001)
- 79 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 69 (1996)
- 78 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 327 (1995)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

- The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws*, rev. 2006

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

- The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies*, 2003

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

- Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act*, rev. 2007

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CSBA, Agenda Online:

<http://www.csba.org/Services/Services/GovernanceTechnology/AgendaOnline.aspx>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.caag.state.ca.us>

Institute for Local Government: <http://www.cacities.org/index.jsp?zone=ilsg>

CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS

The Board of Directors is committed to complying with state open meeting laws and modeling transparency in its conduct of Agency business. The Board shall hold closed sessions only for purposes authorized by law. A closed session may be held during a regular, special, or emergency meeting in accordance with law.

Each agenda shall contain a general description of each closed session item to be discussed at the meeting, as required by law. (Government Code 54954.2)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

The Board shall disclose in open session the items to be discussed in closed session. In the closed session, the Board may consider only those matters covered in its statement. After the closed session, the Board shall reconvene in open session before adjourning the meeting, and when applicable, shall disclose any action taken in the closed session, in the manner prescribed by Government Code 54957.1. (Government Code 54957.7)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

The Board shall not disclose any information that is protected by state or federal law. In addition, no victim or alleged victim of tortious sexual conduct or child abuse shall be identified in any Board agenda, notice, announcement, or report required by the Brown Act, unless the identity of the person has previously been publicly disclosed. (Government Code 54957.7, 54961)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

A Board member shall not disclose confidential information received in a closed session unless the Board authorizes the disclosure of that information. (Government Code 54963)

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

Personnel Matters

The Board may hold a closed sessions to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, discipline, or dismissal of an employee. Such a closed session shall not include discussion or action on proposed compensation except for a reduction of compensation that results from the imposition of discipline. (Government Code 54957)

(cf. 2140 - Evaluation of the Superintendent)

(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/Supervision)

The Board may also hold a closed session to hear complaints or charges brought against an employee by another person or employee, unless the employee requests an open session. Before the Board holds a closed session on specific complaints or charges brought against an employee, the employee shall receive written notice of his/her right to have the complaints or charges heard in open session if desired. This notice shall be delivered

CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)

personally or by mail at least 24 hours before the time of the session. (Government Code 54957)

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 – Employee Notifications)

The Board may hold a closed sessions to discuss a Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) employee's application for early withdrawal of funds in a deferred compensation plan when the application is based on financial hardship arising from an unforeseeable emergency due to illness, accident, casualty, or other extraordinary event, as specified in the deferred compensation plan. (Government Code 54957.10)

Agenda items related to SCVSFSA employee appointments and employment shall describe the position to be filled. Agenda items related to performance evaluations shall specify the title of the employee being reviewed. Agenda items related to employee discipline, dismissal or release require no additional information. (Government Code 54954.5)

Negotiations/Collective Bargaining

Unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties involved, the following shall not be subject to the Brown Act: (Government Code 3549.1)

1. Any meeting and negotiating discussion between SCVSFSA and a recognized or certified employee organization
2. Any meeting of a mediator with either party or both parties to the meeting and negotiating process
3. Any hearing, meeting or investigation conducted by a fact finder or arbitrator
4. Any executive (closed) session of SCVSFSA or between the SCVSFSA and its designated representative for the purpose of discussing its position regarding any matter within the scope of representation and instructing its designated representatives

(cf. 4140/4240/4340 – Bargaining Units)
(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)
(cf. 4143.1/4243.1 - Public Notice - Personnel Negotiations)

The Board may meet in closed session to review the Board's position and/or instruct its designated representative regarding salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of its represented and unrepresented employees. Any closed sessions held for this purpose shall include discussions of SCVSFSA's available funds and funding priorities, but only insofar as they relate to providing instructions to the Board's designated representative. (Government Code 54957.6)

CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)

For represented employees, the Board may also meet in closed session regarding any other matter within the statutorily provided scope of representation. (Government Code 54957.6)

Closed sessions may take place prior to and during consultations and discussions with representatives of employee organizations and unrepresented employees. For unrepresented employees, closed sessions held pursuant to Government Code 54957.6 shall not include final action on the proposed compensation of one or more unrepresented employees. (Government Code 54957.6)

The Board also may meet in closed session with a state conciliator or a mediator who has intervened in proceedings regarding any of the purposes enumerated in Government Code 54957.6.

Agenda items related to negotiations shall specify the name of SCVSFSA's designated representative(s) attending the closed session. If circumstances necessitate the absence of a specified designated representative, an agent or designee may participate in place of the absent representative as long as the name of the agent or designee is announced at an open session held prior to the closed session. The agenda shall also specify the name of the organization representing the employee(s) or the position title of the unrepresented employee who is the subject of the negotiations. (Government Code 54954.5)

Security Matters

The Board may meet in closed session with the Governor, Attorney General, SCVSFSA legal counsel, sheriff or chief of police, or their respective deputies, or a security consultant or a security operations manager, on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings, to the security of essential public services, including water, drinking water, wastewater treatment, natural gas service, and electric service, or to the public's right of access to public services or public facilities. (Government Code 54957)

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan
cf. 3515 - Campus Security
cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)*

The Board may meet in closed session during an emergency meeting held pursuant to Government Code 54956.5 to meet with law enforcement officials for the emergency purposes specified in Government Code 54957 if agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present. If less than two-thirds of the members are present, then the Board must agree by a unanimous vote of the members present. (Government Code 54956.5)

Agenda items related to security matters shall specify the name of the law enforcement agency and the title of the officer, or name of applicable agency representative and title, with whom the Board will consult. (Government Code 54954.5)

CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)

Conference with Real Property Negotiator

The Board may meet in closed session with its real property negotiator prior to the purchase, sale, exchange or lease of real property by or for SCVSFSA in order to grant its negotiator authority regarding the price and terms of the property. (Government Code 54956.8)

Before holding the closed session, the Board shall hold an open and public session to identify its negotiator(s) and the property under negotiation and to specify the person(s) with whom the negotiator may negotiate. (Government Code 54956.8)

For purposes of real property transactions, negotiators may include members of the Board. (Government Code 54956.8)

Agenda items related to real property negotiations shall specify the SCVSFSA negotiator attending the closed session. If circumstances necessitate the absence of a specified negotiator, an agent or designee may participate in place of the absent negotiator as long as the name of the agent or designee is announced at an open session held prior to the closed session. The agenda shall also specify the name of the negotiating parties and the street address of the real property under negotiation. If there is no street address, the agenda item shall specify the parcel number or another unique reference of the property. The agenda item shall also specify whether instruction to the negotiator will concern price, terms of payment, or both. (Government Code 54954.5)

Pending Litigation

Based on the advice of its legal counsel, the Board may hold a closed session to confer with or receive advice from its legal counsel regarding a pending litigation when a discussion of the matter in open session would prejudice the SCVSFSA's position in the litigation. For this purpose, "litigation" means any adjudicatory proceeding, including eminent domain, before a court, administrative body exercising its adjudicatory authority, hearing officer, or arbitrator. (Government Code 54956.9)

Litigation is considered "pending" in any of the following circumstances: (Government Code 54956.9)

1. Litigation to which the SCVSFSA is a "party" has been initiated formally. (Government Code 54956.9(a))
2. A point has been reached where, in the Board's opinion based on the advice of its legal counsel regarding the "existing facts and circumstances," there is "a significant exposure to litigation" against SCVSFSA, or the Board is meeting solely to determine whether, based on existing facts or circumstances, a closed session is authorized. (Government Code 54956.9(b))

CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)

Existing facts and circumstances for these purposes are limited to the following:
(Government Code 54956.9)

a. Facts and circumstances that might result in litigation against SCVSFSA but which SCVSFSA believes are not yet known to potential plaintiffs and which do not need to be disclosed.

b. Facts and circumstances including, but not limited to, an accident, disaster, incident or transactional occurrence which might result in litigation against SCVSFSA, which are already known to potential plaintiffs, and which must be publicly disclosed before the closed session or specified on the agenda.

c. The receipt of a claim pursuant to the Tort Claims Act or a written threat of litigation from a potential plaintiff. The claim or written communication must be available for public inspection.

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

d. A threat of litigation made by a person in an open meeting on a specific matter is within the responsibility of the Board.

e. A threat of litigation made by a person outside of an open meeting on a specific matter within the responsibility of the Board, provided that the SCVSFSA official or employee receiving knowledge of the threat made a record of the statement before the meeting and the record is available for public inspection. Such record does not need to identify an alleged victim of tortious sexual conduct or anyone making a threat on his/her behalf or identify an employee who is the alleged perpetrator of any unlawful or tortious conduct, unless the identity of this person has been publicly disclosed.

3. Based on existing facts and circumstances, the Board has decided to initiate or is deciding whether to initiate litigation. (Government Code 54956.9(c))

Before holding a closed session pursuant to the pending litigation exception, the Board shall state on the agenda or publicly announce the subdivision of Government Code 54956.9 under which the closed session is being held. If authority is based on Government Code 54956.9(a), the Board shall either state the title or specifically identify the litigation to be discussed or state that doing so would jeopardize the SCVSFSA's ability to effectuate service of process upon unserved parties or to conclude existing settlement negotiations to its advantage. (Government Code 54956.9)

Agenda items related to "pending litigation" shall be described as a conference with legal counsel regarding either "existing litigation" or "anticipated litigation." (Government Code 54954.5)

"Existing litigation" items shall identify the name of the case specified by either the claimant's name, names of parties or case or claim number, unless the Board states that to

CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)

identify the case would jeopardize service of process or existing settlement negotiations. (Government Code 54954.5)

"Anticipated litigation" items shall state that there is significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(b) and shall specify the potential number of cases. When SCVSFSA expects to initiate a suit, items related to anticipated litigation shall state that the discussion relates to the initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(c) and shall specify the potential number of cases. The agenda or an oral statement before the closed session may be required to provide additional information Regarding existing facts and circumstances described in item #2 b-e above. (Government Code 54954.5)

Joint Powers Agency Issues

The Board may meet in closed session to discuss a claim for the payment of tort liability losses, public liability losses, or workers' compensation liability incurred by a joint powers agency (JPA) formed for the purpose of insurance pooling or self-insurance authority of which the Agency is a member. (Government Code 54956.95)

Closed session agenda items related to liability claims shall specify the claimant's name and the name of the agency against which the claim is made. (Government Code 54954.5)

(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

When the board of the JPA has so authorized and upon advice of SCVSFSA legal counsel, the Board may meet in closed session in order to receive, discuss and take action concerning information obtained in a closed session of the JPA. During SCVSFSA's closed session, a Board member serving on the JPA board may disclose confidential information acquired during a closed session of the JPA to fellow Board members. (Government Code 54956.96)

The Board member may also disclose the confidential JPA information to SCVSFSA legal counsel in order to obtain advice on whether the matter has direct financial or liability implications for SCVSFSA. (Government Code 54956.96)

Closed session agenda items related to conferences involving a JPA shall specify the closed session description used by the JPA and the name of the Board member representing the SCVSFSA on the JPA board. Additional information listing the names of agencies or titles of representatives attending the closed session as consultants or other representatives shall also be included. (Government Code 54954.5)

Review of Audit Report from California State Auditor's Office

Upon receipt of a confidential final draft audit report from the California State Auditor's Office, the Board may meet in closed session to discuss its response to that report. After public release of the report from the California State Auditor's Office, any Board meeting to discuss the report must be conducted in open session, unless exempted from that requirement by some other provision of law. (Government Code [54956.75](#))

CLOSED SESSION PURPOSES AND AGENDAS (continued)

Closed session agenda items related to an audit by the California State Auditor's Office shall state "Audit by California State Auditor's Office." (Government Code [54954.5](#))

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35145 *Public meetings*

35146 *Closed session (re student suspension)*

44929.21 *Districts with ADA of 250 or more*

48918 *Rules governing expulsion procedures; hearings and notice*

60617 *Meetings of governing board*

GOVERNMENT CODE

3540-3549.3 *Educational Employment Relations Act*

6250-6268 *California Public Records Act*

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act*

COURT DECISIONS

Morrison v. Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Board of Commissioners (2003) 107 Cal.App.4th 860

Bell v. Vista Unified School District (2001) 82 Cal.App. 4th 672

Fischer v. Los Angeles Unified School District (1999) 70 Cal.App. 4th 87

Furtado v. Sierra Community College District (1998) 68 Cal. App. 4th 876

Roberts v. City of Palmdale (1993) 5 Cal.4th 363

Sacramento Newspaper Guild v. Sacramento County Board of Supervisors (1968) 263 Cal.App. 2d 41

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

94 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 82 (2011)

86 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 210 (2003)

78 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 218 (1995)

59 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 532 (1976)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, 2003

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies, California Attorney General's Office, 2002

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act, rev. July 2010

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

League of California Cities: <http://www.cacities.org>

(7/12 3/13) **01/15**

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES AGENCY

Bylaw adopted: May 15, 2012

Valencia, California

BB Revised: April 21, 2015 (LK)

CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS AND REPORTS

No matters other than those announced in open session shall be acted upon during the closed session. (Government Code 54957.7)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The Board of Directors shall reconvene in open session before adjourning and report closed session actions, the votes or abstentions thereon, and other disclosures required by Government Code 54957.1. These disclosures may be made at the location announced in the agenda for the closed session, as long as the public is allowed to be present at that location for the purpose of hearing them. (Government Code 54957.7)

Personnel Matters

The Board shall report any personnel action taken and the votes or abstentions thereon at the public meeting during which the closed session is held. This report shall identify the title of the position. However, the report of a dismissal or nonrenewal of an employment contract shall be deferred until the first public meeting after administrative remedies, if any, have been exhausted. (Government Code 54957.1)

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 2140 - Evaluation of the Superintendent)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Negotiations/Collective Bargaining

Final action on the proposed compensation of one or more unrepresented employees shall not be taken during the closed session. (Government Code 54957.6)

Approval of an agreement concluding closed session labor negotiations with represented employees shall be reported after the agreement is final and has been accepted or ratified by the other party. This report shall identify the item approved and the other party or parties to the negotiation. (Government Code 54957.1)

(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)

(cf. 4143.1/4243.1 - Public Notice - Personnel Negotiations)

Real Estate Negotiations

Approval of an agreement concluding real estate negotiations shall be reported after the agreement is final. If the Board renders the agreement final, it shall report that approval, the votes or abstentions thereon, and the substance of the agreement in open session at the public meeting during which the closed session is held. If final approval rests with the other party, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee shall disclose the fact of that approval and the substance of the agreement upon inquiry by any person, as soon as the other party or its agent has informed the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) of its approval. (Government Code 54957.1)

CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS AND REPORTS (continued)

Pending Litigation

The Board shall report the following actions related to pending litigation, and the votes or abstentions thereon, at the public meeting during which the closed session is held: (Government Code 54957.1)

1. Approval to legal counsel to defend, appeal or not appeal, or otherwise appear in litigation. This report shall identify the adverse parties, if known, and the substance of the litigation.
2. Approval to legal counsel to initiate or intervene in a lawsuit. This report shall state that directions to initiate or intervene in the action have been given and that details will be disclosed to inquiring parties after the lawsuit is commenced unless doing so would jeopardize SCVSFSA's ability to serve process on unserved parties or its ability to conclude existing settlement negotiations to its advantage.
3. Acceptance of a signed offer from the other party or parties which finalizes the settlement of pending litigation. This report shall state the substance of the agreement.

If approval is given to legal counsel to settle pending litigation and if final approval rests with the other party or with the court, SCVSFSA shall report the fact of approval, the substance of the agreement and the vote and abstentions thereon to persons who inquire once the settlement is final. (Government Code 54957.1)

JPA/Self-Insurance Claims

The Board shall report the disposition of joint powers authority or self-insurance claims and the votes or abstentions thereon at the public meeting during which the closed session is held. This report shall include the name of the claimant(s), the name of the agency claimed against, the substance of the claim and the monetary settlement agreed upon by the claimant. (Government Code 54957.1)

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS AND REPORTS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35145 *Public meetings*

35146 *Closed session (re student matters)*

48918 *Rules governing expulsion procedures; hearings and notice*

49073-49079 *Privacy of student records*

60617 *Meetings of governing board*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:*

54957.1 *Closed sessions; public report of action taken*

54957.6 *Closed sessions; representatives to employee organization(s)*

54957.7 *Disclosure of items to be discussed*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.8 *Family Educational Rights and Privacy*

COURT DECISIONS

Kleitman v. Superior Court of Santa Clara County 87 Cal Rptr. 2d (1999)

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

80 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.* 85 (1997)

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS

Agenda Content

Board of Directors meeting agendas shall state the meeting time and place and shall briefly describe each business item to be transacted or discussed, including items to be discussed in closed session. (Government Code 54954.2)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9321- Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The agenda shall provide members of the public the opportunity to address the Board on any agenda item before or during the Board's consideration of the item. The agenda shall also provide members of the public an opportunity to testify at regular meetings on matters which are not on the agenda but which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54954.3)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Each meeting agenda shall list the address designated by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee for public inspection of agenda documents that have been distributed to the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting. (Government Code 54957.5)

The agenda shall specify that an individual who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board meeting should contact the CEO or designee. (Government Code 54954.2)

Agenda Preparation

The Board president and the CEO, as secretary to the Board, shall work together to develop the agenda for each regular and special meeting. Each agenda shall reflect the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency's (SCVSFSA) vision and goals and the Board's focus on support for student learning.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 9121 - President)

(cf. 9122 - Secretary)

Any Board member or member of the public may request that a matter within the jurisdiction of the Board be placed on the agenda of a regular meeting. The request shall be in writing and be submitted in writing to the CEO or designee with supporting documents and information, if any, at least one week before the scheduled meeting date. Items submitted less than a week before the scheduled meeting date may be postponed to a later meeting in order to allow sufficient time for consideration and research of the issue.

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

The Board president and CEO shall decide whether a request is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Items not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board may not be placed on the agenda. In addition, before placing the item on the agenda, the Board president and CEO shall determine if the item is merely a request for information or whether the issue is covered by an existing policy or administrative regulation.

The Board president and CEO shall decide whether an agenda item is appropriate for discussion in open or closed session, and whether the item should be an action item subject to Board vote, an information item that does not require immediate action, or a consent item that is routine in nature and for which no discussion is anticipated.

Any Board action that involves borrowing \$100,000 or more shall be discussed, considered, and deliberated upon as a separate item of business on the meeting agenda. (Government Code 53635.7)

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

All public communications with the Board are subject to requirements of relevant Board policies and administrative regulations.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Consent Items

In order to promote efficient meetings, the Board may bundle a number of items and act upon them together by a single vote through the use of a consent agenda. Consent agenda items shall be items of a routine nature and items for which Board discussion is not anticipated and for which the CEO recommends approval.

When any Board member requests the removal of an item from the consent agenda, the item shall be removed and given individual consideration for action as a regular agenda item.

The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to comment on any consent agenda item that has not been previously considered. However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for public comment when the consent agenda item has previously been considered at an open meeting of a committee comprised exclusively of all the Board members provided that members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the item at that meeting,

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee considered it. (Government Code 54954.3)

Agenda Dissemination to Board Members

At least three days before each regular meeting, each Board member shall be provided a copy of the agenda and agenda packet, including the CEO or designee's report; minutes to be approved; copies of communications; reports from committees, staff, citizens, and others; and other available documents pertinent to the meeting.

When special meetings are called, the CEO or designee shall make every effort to distribute the agenda and supporting materials to Board members as soon as possible before the meeting.

Board members shall review agenda materials before each meeting. Individual members may confer directly with the CEO or designee to ask questions and/or request additional information on agenda items. However, a majority of Board members shall not directly or through intermediaries or electronic means discuss, deliberate, or take action on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)

Agenda Dissemination to Members of the Public

The CEO or designee shall mail a copy of the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet to any person who requests the items. The materials shall be mailed at the time the agenda is posted or upon distribution of the agenda to a majority of the Board, whichever occurs first. (Government Code 54954.1)

If a document which relates to an open session agenda item of a regular Board meeting is distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to a meeting, the CEO or designee shall make the document available for public inspection at a designated location at the same time the document is distributed to all or a majority of the Board provided, provided the document is a public record under the Public Records Act. The CEO or designee may also post the document on the SCVSFSA's web site in a position and manner that makes it clear that the document relates to an agenda item for an upcoming meeting. (Government Code 54957.5)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

Any documents prepared by the SCVSFSA or Board and distributed during a public meeting shall be made available for public inspection at the meeting. Any documents prepared by another person shall be made available for public inspection after the meeting. These

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

requirements shall not apply to a document that is exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records Act. (Government Code 54957.5)

Upon request, the CEO or designee shall make the agenda, agenda packet, and/or any writings distributed at the meeting available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Government Code 54954.1)

Any request for mailed copies of agendas or agenda packets shall be in writing and shall be valid for the calendar year in which it is filed. Written requests must be renewed following January 1 of each year. (Government Code 54954.1)

Persons requesting mailing of the agenda or agenda packet shall pay an annual fee, as determined by the CEO or designee, not to exceed the cost of providing the service.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35144 *Special meetings*

35145 *Public meetings*

35145.5 *Right of public to place matters on agenda*

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 *Public Records Act*

53635.7 *Separate item of business*

54954.1 *Mailed agenda of meeting*

54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements; board actions*

54954.3 *Opportunity for public to address legislative body*

54954.5 *Closed session item descriptions*

54956.5 *Emergency meetings*

54957.5 *Public records*

54960.2 *Challenging board actions; cease and desist*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12101-12213 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.160 *Effective communications*

36.303 *Auxiliary aids and services*

COURT DECISIONS

Mooney v. Garcia, (2012) 207 Cal.App.4th 229

Caldwell v. Roseville Joint Union HSD, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66318

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Call to Order: A Blueprint for Great Board Meetings, 2010

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2009

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies, California Attorney General's Office, rev. 2003

WEB SITES

CSBA, *Agenda Online*: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

(11/02 3/08) 11/12

MEETING CONDUCT

Meeting Procedures

All Board of Directors meetings shall begin on time and shall be guided by an agenda prepared in accordance with Board bylaws and posted and distributed in accordance the Ralph M. Brown Act (open meeting requirements) and other applicable laws.

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

The Board president shall conduct Board meetings in accordance with Board bylaws and procedures that enable the Board to efficiently consider issues and carry out the will of the majority.

(cf. 9121 - President)

The Board believes that late night meetings deter public participation, can affect the Board's decision-making ability, and can be a burden to staff. Regular Board meetings shall be adjourned at 10:30 p.m. unless extended to a specific time determined by a majority of the Board. The meeting shall be extended no more than once and subsequently may be adjourned to a later date.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Quorum and Abstentions

The Board shall act by majority vote of all of the membership constituting the Board. (Education Code 35164)

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

The Board believes that when no conflict of interest requires abstention, its members have a duty to vote on issues before them. When a member abstains, his/her abstention shall not be counted for purposes of determining whether a majority of the membership of the Board has taken action.

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

If a Board consists of seven members and not more than two vacancies occur on the Board, the vacant position(s) shall not be counted for purposes of determining how many members of the Board constitute a majority. In addition, if a vacancy exists on the Board, whenever any provisions of the Education Code require unanimous action of all or a specific number of the members, the vacant position(s) shall be not be counted for purposes of determining the total membership constituting the Board. (Education Code 35165)

MEETING CONDUCT (continued)

Public Participation

Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda or within the Board's jurisdiction. So as not to inhibit public participation, persons attending Board meetings shall not be requested to sign in, complete a questionnaire, or otherwise provide their name or other information as a condition of attending the meeting.

In order to conduct Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board requires that public presentations to the Board comply with the following procedures:

1. The Board shall give members of the public an opportunity to address the Board on any item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, either before or during the Board's consideration of the item. (Education Code 35145.5, Government Code 54954.3)
2. At a time so designated on the agenda at a regular meeting, members of the public may bring before the Board matters that are not listed on the agenda. The Board shall take no action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as authorized by law. (Education Code 35145.5, Government Code 54954.2)
3. Without taking action, Board members or SCVSFSA staff members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by the public about items not appearing on the agenda. Additionally, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a Board or staff member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his/her own activities. (Government Code 54954.2)

Furthermore, the Board or a Board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, ask staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action directing staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (Government Code 54954.2)

4. The Board need not allow the public to speak on any item that has already been considered by a committee composed exclusively of Board members at a public meeting where the public had the opportunity to address the committee on that item. However, if the Board determines that the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, the Board shall provide an opportunity for the public to speak. (Government Code 54954.3)

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

MEETING CONDUCT (continued)

5. A person wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the president and shall then proceed to comment as briefly as the subject permits.

Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or nonagenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the president may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. The president may take a poll of speakers for or against a particular issue and may ask that additional persons speak only if they have something new to add.

6. The Board president may rule on the appropriateness of a topic. If the topic would be more suitably addressed at a later time, the president may indicate the time and place when it should be presented.

The Board shall not prohibit public criticism of its policies, procedures, programs, services, acts, or omissions. (Government Code 54954.3) In addition, the Board may not prohibit public criticism of SCVSFSA employees.

Whenever a member of the public initiates specific complaints or charges against an employee, the Board president shall inform the complainant that in order to protect the employee's right to adequate notice before a hearing of such complaints and charges, and also to preserve the ability of the Board to legally consider the complaints or charges in any subsequent evaluation of the employee, it is the policy of the Board to hear such complaints or charges in closed session unless otherwise requested by the employee pursuant to Government Code 54957. The Board president shall also encourage the complainant to file a complaint using the appropriate SCVSFSA complaint procedure.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

7. The Board president shall not permit any disturbance or willful interruption of Board meetings. Persistent disruption by an individual or group shall be grounds for the president to terminate the privilege of addressing the Board.

The Board may remove disruptive individuals and order the room cleared if necessary. In this case, members of the media not participating in the disturbance shall be allowed to remain, and individuals not participating in such disturbances may be allowed to remain at the discretion of the Board. When the room is ordered cleared due to a disturbance, further Board proceedings shall concern only matters appearing on the agenda. (Government Code 54957.9)

MEETING CONDUCT (continued)

When such disruptive conduct occurs, the CEO or designee shall contact local law enforcement.

Recording by the Public

The CEO or designee shall designate locations from which members of the public may broadcast, photograph, or tape record open meetings without causing a distraction.

(cf. 9324 - Board Minutes and Recordings)

If the Board finds that noise, illumination, or obstruction of view related to these activities would persistently disrupt the proceedings, these activities shall be discontinued or restricted as determined by the Board. (Government Code 54953.5, 54953.6)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

MEETING CONDUCT (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 5095 Powers of remaining board members and new appointees*
- 32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting a misdemeanor*
- 35010 Prescription and enforcement of rules*
- 35145.5 Agenda; public participation; regulations*
- 35163 Official actions, minutes and journal*
- 35164 Vote requirements*
- 35165 Effect of vacancies upon majority and unanimous votes by seven member board*

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 54953.5 Audio or video tape recording of proceedings*
- 54953.6 Broadcasting of proceedings*
- 54954.2 Agenda; posting; action on other matters*
- 54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body; regulations*
- 54957 Closed sessions*
- 54957.9 Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room*

PENAL CODE

- 403 Disruption of assembly or meeting*

COURT DECISIONS

- McMahon v. Albany Unified School District, (2002) 104 Cal.App.4th 1275*
- Rubin v. City of Burbank, (2002) 101 Cal.App.4th 1194*
- Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District, (1996) 936 F.Supp. 719*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- 76 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 281 (1993)*
- 66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 336 (1983)*
- 63 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 215 (1980)*
- 61 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 243, 253 (1978)*
- 55 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 26 (1972)*
- 59 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 532 (1976)*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

- The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2005*
- Board Presidents' Handbook, rev. 2002*
- Maximizing School Board Governance: Boardsmanship*

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

- The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies, 2003*

WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>*
- California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.caag.state.ca.us>*

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD

The Board of Directors shall act by a majority vote of all of the membership constituting the Board, unless otherwise required by law. (Education Code 35164)

(cf. 9000 – Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 – Governance Standards)

(cf. 9012 – Board Member Electronic Communications)

(cf. 9200 – Limits of Board Member Authority)

An "action" by the Board means: (Government Code 54952.6)

1. A collective decision by a majority of the Board members
2. A collective commitment or promise by a majority of the members to make a positive or negative decision
3. A vote by a majority of the members when sitting as the Board upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance

The Board shall not take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final. (Government Code 54953)

Actions taken by the Board in open session shall be recorded in the Board minutes. (Education Code 35145)

(cf. 9324 - Minutes and Recordings)

Action on Non-Agenda Items

After publicly identifying the item, the Board may take action on a subject not appearing on the posted meeting agenda under any of the following conditions: (Government Code 54954.2)

1. When a majority of the Board determines that an emergency situation exists, as defined for emergency meetings pursuant to Government Code 54956.5
2. When two-thirds of the members present, or if less than two-thirds of the members are present then by a unanimous vote of all members present, determine that the need to take immediate action came to the Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency's (SCVSFSA) attention after the agenda was posted
3. When an item appeared on the agenda of, and was continued from, a meeting that occurred not more than five days earlier

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD (continued)

Challenging Board Actions

The district attorney's office or any interested person may file an action in court to stop or prevent the Board's violation or threats of violations of the Brown Act, to determine the applicability of the Brown Act to ongoing or future threatened Board actions, to determine the validity, under California or federal law, or any Board rule or action to penalize any of its members or otherwise discourage the member's expression, or to compel the Board to record its closed sessions because of its violation of any applicable Government Code provision. (Government Code 54960)

The district attorney or any interested person may present a demand that the Board cure and correct a Board action which he/she alleges is in violation of law regarding any of the following: (Government Code 54960.1)

1. Open meeting and teleconferencing (Government Code 54953)
2. Agenda Posting (Government Code 54954.2)
3. Closed session item descriptions (Government Code 54954.5)
4. New or increased tax assessments (Government Code 54954.6)
5. Special meetings (Government Code 54956)
6. Emergency meetings (Government Code 54956.5)

Any demand to "cure and correct" an alleged violation shall clearly describe the challenged action and the nature of the alleged violation and shall be presented to the Board in writing within 90 days of the date when the action was taken. If the alleged violation concerns action taken in an open session but in violation of Government Code 54954.2 (agenda posting), the written demand must be made within 30 days of the date when the alleged action took place. (Government Code 54960.1)

Within 30 days of receiving the demand, the Board shall do one of the following: (Government Code 54960.1)

1. Cure or correct the challenged action and inform the demanding party in writing of its actions to cure or correct.

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD (continued)

2. Determine not to cure or correct the alleged violation and inform the demanding party in writing of its decision to not cure or correct.
3. Take no action. If the Board takes no action within the 30-day review period, its inaction shall be considered a decision not to cure or correct the action.

In addition, the district attorney's office or any interested party may file an action in court to determine the applicability of the Brown Act to any past Board action not specified in Government Code 54960.1, if the following conditions are met: (Government Code 54960.2)

1. Within nine months of the alleged violation, a cease and desist letter is submitted to the Board, clearly describing the past Board action and the nature of the alleged violation.
2. The time for the Board to respond has expired and the Board has not provided an unconditional commitment to cease and desist from and not repeat the past action alleged to have violated the Brown Act.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

15266 School construction bonds
17466 Declaration of intent to sell or lease real property
17481 Lease of property with residence for nondistrict purposes
17510-17511 Resolution requiring unanimous vote of all members constituting board
17546 Private sale of personal property
17556-17561 Dedication of real property
17582-17583 District deferred maintenance fund
35140-35149 Meetings
35160-35178.4 Powers and duties
48660-48661 Community day schools establishment and restrictions

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

425.16 Special motion to strike in connection with a public issue
1245.240 Eminent domain vote requirements
1245.245 Eminent domain, resolution adopting different use

GOVERNMENT CODE

53090-53097.5 Regulation of local agencies by counties and cities
53724 Parcel tax resolution requirements
53790-53792 Exceeding the budget
53820-53833 Temporary borrowing
53850-53858 Temporary borrowing
54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:
54952.6 Action taken, definition
54953 Meetings to be open and public; attendance; secret ballots
54960 Action to prevent violations
65352.2 Coordination with planning agency

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE

3400 Bid specifications

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD (continued)

Legal Reference (continued):

20111 Contracts over \$50,000; contracts for construction; award to lowest responsible bidder
20113 Emergencies, award of contracts without bids

COURT DECISIONS

Los Angeles Times Communications LLC v. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, (2003) 112 Cal.App.4th 1313

McKee v. Orange Unified School District, (2003) 110 Cal.App.4th 1310

Bell v. Vista Unified School District, (2002) 82 Cal.App.4th 672

Boyle v. City of Redondo Beach, (1999) 70 Cal.App.4th 1109

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, 2009

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Local Legislative Bodies, 2003

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLICATIONS

Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act, 2007

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.caag.state.ca.us>www.oag.ca.gov

Institute of Local Government: <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD

Exhibit 1

ACTIONS REQUIRING MORE THAN A MAJORITY VOTE

Actions Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote of the Board:

1. Resolution declaring intention to sell or lease real property (Education Code 17466)

(cf. 3280 - Sale or Lease of District-Owned Real Property)

2. Resolution declaring intent of Board of Directors to convey or dedicate property to the state or any political subdivision for the purposes specified in Education Code 17556 (Education Code 17557)

3. Resolution authorizing and directing the Board president, or any other presiding officer, secretary, or member, to execute a deed of dedication or conveyance of property to the state or a political subdivision (Education Code 17559)

4. Lease for up to three months of school property which has a residence on it and which cannot be developed for Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) purposes because funds are unavailable (Education Code 17481)
(Although a two-thirds vote and the approval of the county auditor and treasurer are required for temporary borrowing before receipt of fiscal income under Government Code 53820-53833, only a majority vote of the Board is required for temporary borrowing pursuant to Government Code 53850-56858).

5. Temporary borrowing before receipt of fiscal income, if implemented pursuant to Government Code 53820-53833 (Government Code 53821)

6. Upon complying with Government Code 65352.2 and Public Resources Code 21151.2, ordering city or county zoning ordinances inapplicable to a proposed use of the property by the SCVSFSA (Government Code 53094)

(cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)

(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

(cf. 7160 - Charter School Facilities)

7. Resolution to transfer excess local funds from a deferred maintenance fund when state funds are insufficient to match local funds being held in the deferred maintenance fund (Education Code 17582, 17583)

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD (continued)

Items #8-10 below are for used by districts seeking to add a community day school on an existing school site.

8. For districts with an ADA of 2,500 or less seeking to add a community day school on an existing school site, certification that satisfactory alternative facilities are not available for a community day school (Education Code 48661)
9. For K-8 districts (and no higher grades) seeking to add a community day school on an existing school site, certification that satisfactory alternative facilities are not available for a community day school (Education Code 48661)
10. For districts desiring to operate a community day school on an existing school site to serve grades K-6 (and no higher grades), certification that satisfactory alternative facilities are not available for a community day school (Education Code 48661)

(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

11. Resolution of intent to issue general obligation bonds with the approval of 55 percent of the voters of the SCVSFSA (Education Code 15266)

(cf. 7214 - General Obligation Bonds)

12. Resolution of intent to issue bonds within a school facilities improvement SCVSFSA with the approval of 55 percent of the voters of the school facilities improvement SCVSFSA (Education Code 15266)

(cf. 7213 - School Facilities Improvement Districts)

13. Resolution to place a parcel tax on the ballot (Government Code 53724)
14. Resolution of necessity to proceed with an eminent domain action and, if the Board desires to use the property for a different use than stated in the resolution of necessity, a subsequent resolution so authorizing the different use (Code of Civil Procedure 1245.240, 1245.245)

Actions Requiring a Two-Thirds Vote of the Board Members Present at the Meeting:

1. Determination that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the SCVSFSA's attention after the posting of the agenda. If less than two-thirds of the Board members are present at the meeting, a unanimous vote of all members present is required. (Government Code 54954.2)

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD (continued)

2. Determination that a closed session is necessary during an emergency meeting. If less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote of all members present is required. (Government Code 54956.5)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Actions Requiring a Four-Fifths Vote of the Board:

1. The expenditure and transfer of necessary funds and use of SCVSFSA property or personnel to meet a national or local emergency created by war, military, naval, or air attack, or sabotage, or to provide for adequate national or local defense (Government Code 53790-53792)

(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)

2. Resolution, adopted between July 15 and August 30, to borrow funds of up to 25 percent of the estimated income and revenue to be received by the SCVSFSA during the current fiscal year from apportionments based on average daily attendance for the preceding school year (Government Code 53822-53824)

3. Declaration of an emergency in order to authorize the SCVSFSA to include a particular brand name or product in a bid specification (Public Contract Code 3400)

(cf. 3311 - Bids)

Actions Requiring a Unanimous Vote of the Board:

1. Resolution authorizing and prescribing the terms of a community lease for extraction of gas (Education Code 17510-17511)

2. Waiver of the competitive bid process pursuant to Public Contract Code 20111 when the Board determines that an emergency exists and upon approval of the County Superintendent of Schools (Public Contract Code 20113)

Action Requiring a Unanimous Vote of the Board Members Present at the Meeting:

1. Private sale of surplus property without advertisement in order to establish that such property is not worth more than \$2,500. Disposal of surplus property in the local dump or donation to a charitable organization requires the unanimous vote of the Board members present to establish that the value of such property would not defray the cost of arranging its sale. (Education Code 17546)

(cf. 3270 - Sale and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies)

ACTIONS BY THE BOARD (continued)

Exhibit 2

UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT LETTER

To: (Name of district attorney or any interested person)

The Governing Board of (name of school district) has received your cease and desist letter dated (date) alleging that the following described past action taken by the Board violates the Ralph M. Brown Act: (Describe alleged past action as set forth in the cease and desist letter.)

In order to avoid unnecessary litigation and without admitting any violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Board hereby unconditionally commits that it will cease, desist from, and not repeat the challenged past action described above. The Board may rescind this commitment only by a majority vote of its membership taken in open session at a regular meeting and noticed on its posted agenda as "Rescission of Brown Act Commitment." You will be provided with written notice, sent by any means or media you provide in response to this message, to whatever address(es) you specify, of any intention to consider rescinding this commitment at least 30 days before any such regular meeting. In the event that this commitment is rescinded, a notice will be delivered to you by the same means as this commitment, or by mail to an address that you have designated in writing, and you will have the right to commence legal action pursuant to Government Code [54960](#)(a).

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Title of Board President or other designee)

11/12

MINUTES AND RECORDINGS

The Board of Directors recognizes that maintaining accurate minutes of Board meetings provides a record of Board actions for use by Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) staff and the public and helps foster public trust in Board governance.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

The secretary of the Board shall keep minutes and record all official Board actions. The Board's minutes shall be public records and shall be made available to the public upon request. (Education Code 35145, 35163)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 9122 - Secretary)
(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee shall distribute a copy of the "unapproved" minutes of the previous meeting(s) with the agenda for the next regular meeting. The Board shall approve the minutes as circulated or with necessary amendments.

In order to ensure that the minutes are focused on Board action, the minutes shall include only a brief summary of the Board's discussion, but shall not include a verbatim record of the Board's discussion on each agenda topic or the names of Board members who made specific points during the discussion.

The minutes shall include the specific language of each motion, the names of members who made and seconded the motion.

The minutes shall also report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present. (Government Code 54953)

The minutes shall reflect the names of those individuals who comment during the meeting's public comment period as well as the topics they address.

The minutes shall record which members are present and whether a member is not present for part of the meeting due to late arrival and/or early departure.

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)

Official Board minutes and recordings shall be stored in a secure location and shall be retained in accordance with law.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

MINUTES AND RECORDINGS (continued)

Any minutes or recordings kept for Board meetings held in closed session shall be kept separately from the minutes or recordings of regular and special meetings. Minutes or recordings of closed sessions are not public records. (Government Code 54957.2)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

Recording or Broadcasting of Meetings

SCVSFSA may tape, film, or broadcast any open Board meeting. The Board president shall announce that a recording or broadcasting is being made at the direction of the Board at the beginning of the meeting and, as practicable, the recorder or camera shall be placed in plain view of meeting participants.

Any SCVSFSA recording may be erased or destroyed 30 days after the meeting. Recordings made at the direction of the Board during a meeting are public records and, upon request, shall be made available for inspection by members of the public on SCVSFSA equipment without charge. (Government Code 54953.5)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35145 *Public meetings*

35163 *Official actions, minutes and journals*

35164 *Vote requirements*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54952.2 *Meeting defined*

54953 *Meetings*

54953.5 *Audio or video recording of proceedings*

54953.6 *Broadcasting of proceedings*

54957.2 *Closed sessions; clerk; minute book*

54960 *Violations and remedies*

PENAL CODE

632 *Unlawful to intentionally record a confidential communication without consent*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

16020-16027 *Classification and retention of records*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2007

Guide to Effective Meetings, rev. 2007

Maximizing School Board Leadership: Boardsmanship, 1996

MINUTES AND RECORDINGS (continued)

Management Resources (cont.):

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

SCVSFSA: <http://www.scvschoolnutrition.org>

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BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

The Board of Directors shall annually conduct a self-evaluation in order to demonstrate accountability to the community and ensure that Santa Clarita Valley School Food Services Agency (SCVSFSA) governance effectively supports student achievement and the attainment of the SCVSFSA's vision and goals.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 2140 - Evaluation of the Superintendent)

The evaluation may address any areas of Board responsibility, including but not limited to Board performance in relation to vision setting, curriculum, personnel, finance, policy, collective bargaining and community relations. The evaluation also may address objectives related to Board meeting operations, relationships among Board members, relationship with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), understanding of Board and CEO roles and responsibilities, communication skills, or other boardsmanship skills.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

The Board shall be evaluated as a whole. Individual Board members also are encouraged to use the evaluation process as an opportunity to privately assess their own personal performance.

Each year the Board, with assistance from the CEO, shall determine an evaluation method or instrument that measures a reasonable number of previously identified performance objectives. Videotape of a Board meeting may be used as an evaluation tool only with the consent of all Board members.

Any discussion of the Board's self-evaluation shall be conducted in open session. At the request of the Board, a facilitator may be used to assist with the evaluation process. The Board may invite the CEO or others to provide input into the evaluation process.

Following the evaluation, the Board shall develop strategies for strengthening Board performance and shall establish priorities and objectives for the following year's evaluation.

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION (continued)

Legal Reference:

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 *Brown Act; board self-evaluations not covered*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Professional Governance Standards, 2000

Maximizing School Board Leadership, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>