

BOARD OF EDUCATION FLORENCE CITY SCHOOLS

The Board of Education proudly serves the faculty, staff and students in Florence City Schools. All aspects of the Board's operation are described as follows:

I. Legal Status:

The legal status of each member of the Board is that of a Florence "city officer." Members of the Board have the powers, authority, duties and responsibilities as set forth in Chapter 11, beginning with Section 16-11-1 of Title 16 of the Code of Alabama, 1975. Additionally, Act 2000-656 of the State of Alabama applies to the Board's operation.

Members of the Board are immune from civil liability for any actions taken in their official capacity as members of the Board.

The legal status of the Board does not authorize an individual member to act for or bind the Board of Education as a whole. Consequently, no motion or resolution may be declared adopted without the concurrence of the majority of the entire Board.

II. Number:

The Florence City Board of Education consists of six members, with one member being elected from each of the six City Council districts by a majority of the qualified electors voting who reside in the district.

III. Qualifications for Board Members:

A person is legally qualified to become a member of the Florence City Board of Education provided:

- a. The person is a resident of the City Council district which he/she proposes to represent for at least six months preceding the deadline date for qualifying as a candidate;
- b. The person is at least 21 years of age;
- c. The person is a registered voter;
- d. The person is not an employee of the Board;
- e. The person does not have a record of conviction for any crime involving moral turpitude; and
- f. The person pays a qualifying fee in an amount equal to that paid by candidates for general municipal elections.

NOTE: If the boundaries of a City Council district change, the corresponding Board of Education district automatically changes accordingly for the next election of the Board of Education. If redistricting places an incumbent Board member outside his/her district, the member continues to serve the remainder of the term to which he/she was elected or appointed.

IV. Method of Election:

The election date for candidates for membership on the Board of Education coincides with general municipal elections.

The election is conducted, the vote canvassed and the results declared in the same manner as provided for other general municipal elections.

V. Terms of Office:

Members of the Board of Education are elected within their respective districts for a four-year term, coinciding with general municipal elections.

VI. Internal Organization:

At its regular meeting in October of each year, the Florence City Board of Education, after establishing a quorum, elects a President and Vice-President from among its members. The President has the following duties:

- a. To preside over all meetings of the Board of Education;
- b. To set the meeting dates and times of all Board meetings consistent with state law, endeavoring to schedule meetings at times which afford citizens the best opportunities to attend;
- c. To establish the agenda of the Board meetings in consultation with the City Superintendent of Education;
- d. To ensure proper and adequate notice to the public for public hearings on the budget of the school system;
- e. To maintain order at all Board meetings;
- f. To assist the Superintendent in seeking public input into the operation and support of the school system;
- g. To vote on all matters which come before the Board if he/she so desires;
- h. To ensure due process for the employees of the school system according to duly-adopted written policies and applicable state and federal laws; and
- i. To promote the school system as authorized by the Board.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President performs the duties of the President, and, when doing, has all the powers of the President.

VII. Quorum:

A majority of the Board membership (at least four) constitutes a quorum at regular or special meetings of the Florence City Board of Education. With the establishment of a quorum, four assenting votes are required for passage of any motion.

The only action that may be taken in the absence of a quorum is to adjourn the meeting to another time in the expectation of a quorum.

VIII. Voting Method:

There is no representation by proxy of any members of the Board of Education at any time. All members present are authorized to speak on issues, offer and second motions, and vote.

Any matter requiring a vote of the Board is voted upon by open ballot. A roll call vote may be required by the President of the Board on matters of extreme importance or at the request of any Board member.

IX. Resignation of Board Members:

A Board of Education member may resign from office at any time during his/her term. Such resignation must be approved by the Board. In the event that a member elects to resign, a written statement of resignation must be submitted to the Board as far in advance of the effective resignation date as possible.

A Board of Education member is considered resigned when the member moves from the City Council district that he/she represents, when he/she has a record of conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or when he/she becomes an employee of the Board of Education.

X. Removal from Office:

Any Board member who fails to attend more than two regularly scheduled monthly meetings without an authorized excused absence as recognized by the Board receives a written request from the City Superintendent of Education to attend the meetings. If the Board member persists in unexcused absences for two additional regularly scheduled monthly Board meetings, the position is declared vacant by the President of the Board, subject to review and approval by the City Council.

XI. Unexpired Term Fulfillment:

In the event that a vacancy occurs within the membership of the Florence City Board of Education by resignation or otherwise, the vacancy is filled by appointment by a majority of the remaining members of the Board of Education for the unexpired term. It is filled within 45 days after the vacancy occurs from qualified candidates who apply for the Board position. If the vacancy is not filled by the remaining members within 45 days, the City Superintendent of Education notifies the State Superintendent of Education who, in turn, fills the vacancy by appointment. A person filling a vacancy must reside in the district which the vacating member represented.