

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' LEGAL COUNSEL**

It shall be the responsibility of the board to employ legal counsel to assist the board and the administration in carrying out their duties with respect to the numerous legal issues confronting the school district. The board may appoint legal counsel at its annual meeting.

The superintendent shall have the authority to contact the board's legal counsel on behalf of the board when the superintendent believes it is necessary for the management of the school district. The board president may contact and seek advice from the school board's legal counsel. The board's legal counsel shall attend both regular and special school board meetings upon the request of the board or the superintendent. Board members may contact legal counsel upon approval of a majority of the board. It shall be the responsibility of each board member to pay the legal fees, if any, of an attorney the board member consulted regarding matters of the school district unless the board has authorized the board member to consult an attorney on the matter.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board informed of matters for which legal counsel was consulted, particularly if the legal services will involve unusual expense for the school district.

Legal Reference:        Bishop v. Iowa State Board of Public Instruction, 395 N.W.2d  
888 (Iowa 1986).  
Iowa Code § 279.37 (1993).

Cross Reference:        200.3 Powers of the Board of Directors  
202.5 Individual Authority

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