

## THE PEOPLE AND THEIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

A board of education is the legal entity for conducting a system of public education within the geographic area of a school district. The system was created by, and is governed by, state statutes. Members of a board are, therefore, state officers chosen by citizens of a district to represent them and the state in the legislative management of public schools.

The Board of Education has the dual responsibility for implementing statutory requirements pertaining to public education and local citizens' desires for educating the community's youth. While the Board has an obligation to determine and assess citizens' desires, it is understood that when citizens elect delegates to represent them in the conduct of public education they at the same time endow their representatives with the authority to exercise their best judgment in determining policies, making decisions, and approving procedures for carrying out the responsibility.

The Board therefore reaffirms and declares its intent to:

1. Maintain two-way communications with citizens of the district. The public shall be kept informed of the progress and problems of the school district, and citizens shall be urged to bring their aspirations and feelings about their public schools to the attention of this body which they have chosen to represent them in the management of public education.
2. Establish policies and make decisions on the basis of declared educational philosophy and goals. All decisions made by this Board shall be made with primacy given to the purpose set forth, most critical of which is the optimal learning of the children enrolled in our schools.
3. Act as a truly representative body for citizens of the district in matters involving public education. The Board recognizes that ultimate responsibility for public education rests with the State but individual boards of education have been assigned specific authority through statute. The Board shall relinquish none of this authority since it believes that decision-making control over the children's learning should be in the hands of local citizens as much as possible.

ADOPTION DATE: January 15, 1985

REVISION DATE: January 24, 1996