Membership

0141. <u>Number</u> — The Board of Education shall consist of nine members. (Ed. Law §2502-2)

0142. <u>Qualifications</u> — Each member of the Board shall have the qualifications specified by law. (Ed. Law §2502-7)

0142.3. <u>Orientation</u> — To promote the effective participation of members elected to serve as trustees of the District, such new members shall be encouraged to attend orientation conferences sponsored by organizations such as the New York State Education Department, the New York State School Boards Association, Mid-Hudson School Study Council, Orange County School Boards Association and other similar organizations.

The Board shall review periodically the state and national school boards or other educational conferences available to Board members, and authorize upon advance request, with estimated costs to the Clerk of the Board, the attendance of one or more members of the Board at such conference(s).

The costs of attending such conference(s) shall be paid for by the District in accordance with law (Ed. Law §2503; Gen. Mun. Law §77-b) and Board policy.

0143. <u>Election</u> — Members of the Board shall be duly elected at large by the qualified voters of the District at an election held annually on the third Tuesday in May as required to maintain the full membership of nine on the Board. (Ed. Law §2602)

0144. <u>Term</u> — A member shall be elected to a term of office of three years except that where a member is elected to fill an unexpired term, he/she shall be elected to a term of office coterminous with the unexpired term. (Ed. Law §2502-3)

0145. <u>Vacancies</u> — A vacancy on the Board occasioned by resignation, removal, change of residency, or death may be filled by the Board by appointment by a quorum of the remaining Board members of a qualified person who will hold office only until the next regular School District election or by special election within 90 days of the date of the vacancy. (Ed. Law §§2113, 2502-6) The Board may also choose to leave the seat vacant.

0146. <u>Removal</u> — After a hearing, the Board may remove a member found guilty of official misconduct. In addition, whenever a member shall cease to be a bona fide resident of the District, his/her membership shall cease immediately. A vacancy may also be declared by the Board when a member has failed to attend three successive regular monthly meetings without sufficient excuse. Members are subject to removal by the Commissioner for subversive activities, willful violation or neglect of duty, disobedience of a lawful requirement of the Commissioner of Education and other acts in accordance with law. (Ed. Law §§306, 1706, 1709-18, 2109; 8 NYCRR 275, 276,277)

0147. <u>Compensation</u> — A Board member may not receive compensation for his/her services, but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses of a Board member incurred in the

performance of his/her duties and responsibilities upon presentation of a properly filed voucher and audit by the Claims Auditor. (Ed. Law §2118)

0148. Indemnification — Whenever a school Board member in the exercise of his/her powers or the performance of his/her duties or who without willfulness or intent violates a prior order, judgment, consent decree or stipulation of settlement and is required to defend any non-criminal litigation brought against him/her, all reasonable costs as well as damages adjudged against him/her will be considered School District charges. This provision shall be read in consonance with law. (Ed. Law §3811; Public Officers Law 18)

0149. Authority — No member of the Board, as an individual, has the right to exercise the authority of the Board, unless he/she has been specifically delegated authority to act on behalf of the Board by law or action of the Board.