

The Role of the School Board

Perspective of Seth Rosenblatt former SCSD board member

In San Carlos, the Governing Board (often called the “School Board”) is a body of five elected citizens who serve a four-year term (five years for the 2017 election). *School board members have no individual authority – only acting as a team can they execute their required responsibilities.*

The Superintendent has all of the executive responsibilities, while the School Board hires the executive while retaining fiscal and other oversight responsibilities for the organization.

Responsibilities of the School Board

- Hiring and managing the Superintendent
- Providing financial oversight for the school district, including approving budgets and significant expenditures
- Approving all school district policies
- Ensuring legal compliance in all areas, including academic and fiscal matters
- Approving collectively bargained agreements and other large contracts
- Acting as an appellate body for student or employee discipline matters
- Engaging with the community as ambassadors of the school district

Joint Responsibilities of the School Board and Superintendent

- Setting direction and priorities for the school district
- Developing the strategy and long-term plans of the school district
- Communicating to the community its progress against these goals

Responsibilities of the Superintendent

- Implementing all aspects of teaching and learning as the district’s educational leader
- Managing all other student programs, including those for health and safety
- Managing the finances of the district
- Developing/recommending policies to the school board and ensuring all are enforced
- Managing staff of the school district, including working with labor unions to negotiate employment agreements
- Managing all facilities and any construction, maintenance, and transportation programs
- Building and managing relationships with outside providers, community organizations, other public agencies, and the community at large
- Advising the school board on all relevant legal, administrative, and financial matters
- Leading all other areas of the school district