

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Recognizing the value of continuous and life-long learning, the RSU No. 5 Board of Directors places a high priority on the development of its members' "boardsmanship" skills and on supporting opportunities for in-service education. The purpose of the Board of Directors development is to enhance the quality of education in the Board of Directors and the effectiveness of school unit governance.

Board of Director members need to be well-informed and to expand their knowledge of trends and issues affecting education and school governance. In addition, Board of Director members need to develop and reinforce the skills required for effective policy-making, budget planning and communications.

Board of Director members are encouraged to participate in district-sponsored training sessions and/or workshops and in Board or related conferences, seminars, workshops and conventions sponsored by the Maine School Boards Association, the Maine School Management Association, the National School Boards Association and other recognized leaders in education. Board members are also encouraged to be active in leadership opportunities that may be available within regional, state and national associations.

Adequate funds should be budgeted annually to support Board of Director member development, including participation at meetings, subscriptions to publications that address the concerns of Board members and memberships in school board associations.

Upon Board of Director approval and within budgetary limitations, reimbursement for travel and necessary expenses will be provided to individual members for activities related to Board development. The Board of Directors, on a case-by-case basis, will determine the number of Board members authorized to attend specific meetings, conferences, conventions or other events at the Board of Director's expense, as warranted by budgetary limitations. Board members may use their own discretion regarding attendance at meetings, conferences, conventions or other events where reimbursement will not be provided by RSU No. 5.

At a Board of Directors meeting subsequent to attendance at an educational event, members are encouraged to report briefly to the Board and to the public to share knowledge gained and thoughts on implications for local school governance. Board of Director members are also encouraged to study and share with the Board and Superintendent materials of interest they have collected.

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