Information Sheet – 6/21/16 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 7.5

FR: Celli Coeville

RE: Second Reading – Business and Noninstructional Operations – Travel Expenses Policy Revision, BP 3350

BP/3350 – Travel Expenses

With Teacher Effectiveness dollars and more opportunities for our staff to attend conferences, we have drafted a more comprehensive Travel Expenses policy for the Board's review.

Attached please see our current District Board Policy for Travel Expenses followed by a revised version of BP 3350. The proposed revised version of the Travel Expenses policy contains more detailed procedures regarding employee reimbursement of travel expenditures.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Board of Trustees shall authorize payment for actual and necessary expenses, including travel, incurred by any employee performing authorized services for the district.

The Superintendent or designee may approve employee requests to attend meetings in accordance with the adopted budget.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4131.5 - Professional Growth)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Expenses shall be reimbursed within limits approved by the Board. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the submission and verification of expense claims. He/she may authorize an advance of funds to cover necessary expenses.

The Board may establish an allowance on either a mileage or monthly basis to reimburse authorized employees for the use of their own vehicles in the performance of assigned duties.

All out-of-state travel for which reimbursement will be claimed shall have Board approval. Travel expenses not previously budgeted also shall be approved on an individual basis by the Board.

Authorized employees may use district credit cards while attending to district business. Under no circumstances may personal expenses be charged on district credit cards.

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)
(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
44016 Travel expense
44032 Travel expense payment
44033 Automobile allowance
44802 Student teacher's travel expense

Business and Noninstructional Operations

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Governing Board recognizes that district employees may incur expenses in the course of performing their assigned duties and responsibilities. To ensure the prudent use of public funds, the Superintendent or designee shall establish rules to keep such expenses to a minimum while affording employees a reasonable level of safety and convenience.

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)

The Board shall authorize payment for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred by any employee performing authorized services for the district, whether within or outside district boundaries. (Education Code 44032)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the approval of travel requests and the submission and verification of expense claims. He/she also shall establish reimbursement rates in accordance with law and Board policy.

An employee shall obtain approval from the Superintendent or designee prior to traveling. The Superintendent or designee may approve travel requests in accordance with the adopted budget and upon determining that the travel is authorized or assigned by the employee's supervisor, is necessary to attend a conference or other staff development opportunity that will enhance employee performance, and/or is otherwise necessary to the performance of the employee's duties. Travel expenses not previously budgeted may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent or designee if he/she determines that the travel is essential and that resources may be obtained or redirected for this purpose.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)
(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

All out-of-state travel for which reimbursement will be claimed shall be approved in advance by the Board.

Reimbursable travel expenses may include, but are not limited to, costs of transportation, parking fees, bridge or road tolls, lodging when district business reasonably requires an overnight stay, registration fees for seminars and conferences, telephone and other communication expenses incurred on district business, and other necessary incidental expenses.

The district shall not reimburse personal travel expenses including, but not limited to, alcohol, entertainment, laundry, expenses of any family member who is accompanying the employee on district-related business, personal use of an automobile, and personal losses or traffic violation

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fees incurred while on district business.

Except as otherwise provided, reimbursement of travel expenses shall be based on actual expenses as documented by receipts.

Authorized employees shall be reimbursed for the use of their own private vehicles in the performance of assigned duties, on a mileage basis as determined by the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 44033)

The mileage allowance provided by the district for employees' use of their private vehicles shall be equal to the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

Vehicles should be shared whenever possible to minimize travel costs. No employee shall be entitled to reimbursement for automobile travel when he/she is transported free of charge or by another employee who is entitled to the expense reimbursement.

Meal costs shall be reimbursed based on documented actual expenses within the maximum amounts established by the Superintendent or designee and based on the time of day that travel for district business begins and ends.

Any expense that exceeds the maximum rate of reimbursement established by the district shall be reimbursed only with the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

All expense reimbursement claims shall be submitted on a district form, within 10 working days following return from travel when possible. The form shall be accompanied by receipts and any explanation necessary to document that the expenses meet district criteria for reimbursement.

The Superintendent or designee shall approve expense claims only upon verifying that all necessary documentation is provided and that all expenses are appropriate and related to district business. If an expense claim is disallowed due to lack of documentation or inappropriate expenses, the employee may be personally responsible for any improper costs incurred.

When approved by the Superintendent or designee, an employee may be issued a district credit card for use while on authorized district business. Receipts documenting the expenses incurred on a district credit card shall be submitted promptly following return from travel. Under no circumstances shall personal expenses be charged on a district credit card, even if the employee intends to subsequently reimburse the district for the personal charges.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
42634 Itemization of expenses
44016 Travel expense to employment interview
44032 Travel expenses
44033 Automobile allowance
44802 Student teacher's travel expense

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Management Resources:
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE PUBLICATIONS
Per Diem Rates (For Travel Within the Continental United States), Publication 1542
WEB SITES
Internal Revenue Service: http://www.irs.gov
U.S. General Services Administration, Per Diem Rates: http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem

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