

Code of Ethics for School Board Members

Creed

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I hold great public trust. I am responsible for providing the means whereby our American way of life is to be fostered and improved. I am responsible for the education of our people, particularly youth, that each person may become intellectually and spiritually competent, economically and socially successful and happy; that he or she becomes a responsible citizen, home member, learner, and worker. I freely give the necessary time to this great service, but most important, and knowing the responsibilities vested in me, I give and use my best judgment in considering and deciding the welfare of the schools.

As a lay citizen, representing the people, I do not know, nor do I need to know, the complex details of education or administration. I am not expected to do this work, but I am responsible for seeing that the work is done. My work as a Board Member consists of choosing competent personnel to do the work, deciding within the provisions of the law, what is to be done, and appraising the work to see it is done properly and economically. I believe in lay control but in professionally competent teaching and administration.

My foremost specific responsibility, as a Board Member, is to choose a competent executive officer and make him or her generally responsible for the entire school system. I look to him or her for leadership, I expect him or her to keep me informed as to the needs and accomplishments of the schools, based upon the facts in the case. I must make my own decisions.

I do not assume authority not granted by the Board such as offering a position, asking for a resignation, or promising a contract to anyone. I abide by majority decisions of the Board. I carefully consider petitions, resolutions, and complaints, and I dispose of them in the best interests of the school. I do not seek special privileges for myself, my relatives and friends. I do not criticize school employees publicly. I desire to provide such conditions as will increase and reward competent service in the schools. I desire that the people of the community shall have an education that is a complete and adequate as it is possible to provide.

With dignity and honor, I serve the people; with humility and to the best of my ability, I discharge my great public trust.

Code of Ethics

Any trustee who behaves in a manner inconsistent with this code of ethics is subject to reprimand by the Board.

As a member of my local Board of Trustees, I will strive to improve public education, and to that end I will:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, having read my packet ensuring that I am informed about the issues to be considered at the meeting;
2. Recognize that the Board must comply with the Open Meeting Law and only has authority to make decisions at official Board meetings;
3. Make all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
4. Understand that the Board makes decisions as a team. Individual Board Members may not commit the Board to any action unless so authorized by official Board action;
5. Recognize that decisions are made by a majority vote and the outcome should be supported by all Board Members;
6. Acknowledge that policy decisions are a primary function of the Board and should be made after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings, recognizing that authority to administer policy rests with the Superintendent;
7. Be open, fair, and honest; have no hidden agendas; and respect the right of other Board Members to have opinions and ideas which differ from mine;
8. Recognize that the Superintendent is the Board's advisor and should be present at all meetings, except where the Superintendent is the subject matter, or where the when the Superintendent's presence is a conflict of interest. Further, the Superintendent shall not be present during any Board deliberation regarding a student expulsion hearing and/or when the Board deliberates regarding a teacher non-renewal or termination advanced by the administration.
9. Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office while refraining from communications that may create conditions of bias should a concern ever rise to the attention of the Board as a hearings panel;
10. Keep abreast of important developments in educational trends, research, and practices by individual study and through participation in programs providing such information;
11. Respect the right of the public to be informed about District decisions and school operations;
12. Understand that I will receive information that is confidential and cannot be shared;

13. Give staff the respect and consideration due skilled, professional employees, and support the employment of those best qualified to serve as District staff, while insisting on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
14. Present personal criticism of District operations to the Superintendent, not to District staff or to a Board meeting;
15. Refuse to use my Board position for personal or family gain or prestige. I will announce any conflicts of interest before Board action is taken; and
16. Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

Trustee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy History:

Adopted on: December 21, 2015

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