

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

The following shall govern the general conduct of all individual members of the Board.

1. Commitments

Each Trustee shall:

- a. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, having read the packet ensuring that he/she is informed about the issues to be considered at the meetings.
- b. Recognize that the Board must comply with the Open Meeting Law and only has authority to make decisions at official Board meetings.
- c. Respect the right of the public to be informed about District decisions and school operations.
- d. Represent all District constituents honestly and equally, by making all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment, and refuse to surrender board responsibilities to individuals, special interest groups, or partisan political groups.
- e. Avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from board membership.
- f. **Not** use board membership for personal or family gain or prestige.
- g. Announce any conflicts of interest before board action is taken.
- h. Recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting.
- i. Abide by the majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
- j. Take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration.
- k. Respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
- l. Encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board.
- m. Keep abreast of important developments in educational trends, research, and practices through individual study and participation in programs such as those sponsored by affiliated state and national school board associations and organizations.

- n. Recognize that the Superintendent is the Board's advisor and should be present at all meetings, except when considering the Superintendent's evaluation, contract, or salary.
- o. Present personal criticism of District operations to the Superintendent, not to District staff or at a Board meeting.
- p. 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.
- q. Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office while refraining from communications that could create conditions of bias if such complaints or problems ever rise to the attention of the Board as a hearing panel.

2. Goals

- a. The development of educational programs which meet the individual needs of every student.
- b. The development of procedures for the regular and systematic evaluation of programs, staff performance, and Board operations to ensure progress toward educational and fiscal goals.
- c. The development of effective school board policies which provide direction for the operation of the schools recognizing that authority to administer policy rests with the superintendent.
- d. The development of systematic communications which ensure that the Board, administration, staff, students, and community are fully informed and that the staff understands the community's aspirations of its schools.
- e. The development of sound business practices which ensure that every dollar spent produces maximum benefits.

Adopted: 03-09-2005 Reviewed: Revised: 03-14-2007 10-10-2012

03-13-2024