

SCHOOL BOARD: CODE OF ETHICS

The following is a generally accepted statement as a Code of Conduct and Ethics for School Board members.

1. As a member of the School Board,
 - I will listen.
 - I will uphold the laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin.
 - I will recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
 - I will be motivated only by a desire to serve the citizens and children of my community.
 - I will inform myself of the proper duties and functions of a School Board member.
 - I will recognize the fact that it is my responsibility, together with that of my fellow Board members, to see that the school is properly run, not to run it myself.
 - I will work through the administrative employees of the Board, not over or around them.
 - I will recognize the fact that School District business may be legally transacted only in a Board of Education meeting, which complies with Wis. Stats. 19.85.

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2. In performing the proper functions of a School Board member,
- I will work to develop sound educational policies, which promote the efficient and effective operation of the School District.
 - I will function, in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine, as a part of a corporate entity governing public education in the School District and not as a School District administrator.
 - I will consider myself a legal trustee of public education and will do my best to protect and preserve it and to advance its progress.

3. In maintaining desirable relations with other members of the Board,
- I will respect the right of others to have and express opinions.
 - I will recognize the fact that authority rests with the Board in legal session, not with individual members of the board, except as authorized by law.
 - I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of board meetings, about other members of the board, or their opinions.
 - I will recognize the fact that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition, which is to be considered, is to close my mind and agree not to think through other facts and points of view, which may be presented at the meeting.
 - I will make decisions in board meetings only after all sides and debatable questions have been presented.
 - I will insist that all members of the Board be appointed to serve only in an investigative and advisory capacity.
 - I will consider it unethical as well as in violation of a contractual agreement to hold sessions of the Board of Education without the presence of the Superintendent of Schools, except when discussing the financial remuneration of the Superintendent of Schools.
- Confidential business of the Board of Education shall be discussed only in a legally closed session of the Board of Education.

_____ Initials _____

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4. In meeting my responsibilities to my community,
 - I will attempt to appraise fairly both the present and the future educational needs of the community.
 - I will attempt to obtain adequate financial support for the school.
 - I will be available and accessible to the citizens when so requested.
 - I will interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and do my best to translate them into the educational program of the school.
 - I will insist that business transactions of the School District be on a legal, ethical, open, and above-board basis.
 - I will not buy for personal use at “school prices”.
5. In working with the Superintendent of Schools and staff,
 - I will hold the Superintendent responsible for the administration of the school.
 - I will give the Superintendent authority commensurate with the responsibility of the office.
 - I will assure that the school will be administered by the best professional people available.
 - I will only vote to employ personnel after considering the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.
 - I will participate in the School Board action only after considering the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, and then only after the Superintendent of Schools has furnished adequate information supporting the recommendation.
 - I will expect the Superintendent of Schools to keep the School Board adequately informed at all times through both oral and written reports.
 - I will give the Superintendent friendly counsel and advice.

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I will refer all complaints to the proper administrative officer and insist that they be presented in writing to the Board as a whole, in accordance with existing Board policies.

I will present any personal criticisms of employees to the Superintendent of Schools.

I will provide adequate safeguards for the Superintendent of Schools and other employees so they may perform their proper functions on a professional basis.

Reference: Wisconsin Statutes 19.85

Cross-References: Policy 872 – Concerns or Complaints Regarding School or School Personnel

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Confirmed by: _____, President

_____, Clerk