

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

AS A MEMBER OF MY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, I WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND, TO THAT END, I WILL STRIVE TO:

Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings, insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meeting.

Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings.

Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.

Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff and all elements of the community.

Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent of Schools.

Communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.

Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school board association.

Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.

Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain.

Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law or is received in confidence or executive session.

Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

Reference:
BCA

1st reading: January 21, 2003

2nd reading: February 10, 2003

Adopted: February 10, 2003

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

Each board member shall comply with the following ethical provisions:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings, insofar as possible, and become informed concerning issues to be considered at those meetings.
2. Make decisions only after full discussion at public Board meetings; render all decisions based on the available facts and by independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
3. Seek systematic communications with students, staff, and members of the community.
4. Work respectfully with other Board members to achieve the educational goals of the school district by encouraging the free expression of opinions by all Board members.
5. Communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
6. Be informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school board associations.
7. Support the employment of those people best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
8. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law or is received in confidence or executive session.
9. Recognize that no individual member has authority to speak or act for the entire Board, except as specifically designated to do so by Board action.
10. Recognize that final Board actions will be supported by all members of the Board; take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration; and refrain from private actions which undermine or compromise official Board action.
11. Display and demonstrate courtesy and decorum toward fellow Board members at all public meetings and in all public statements.

Updated: September 9, 1999
Reviewed: February 10, 2003
Amended: April 27, 2009
Approved: June 22, 2009

BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As elected officials, school board members owe a duty of loyalty to the general public in protecting the school district's interest. Therefore, the Board declares that a conflict of interest is a personal, pecuniary interest that is immediate, definite, and demonstrable and which is or may be in conflict with the public interest.

A board member who has a personal or private interest in a matter proposed or pending before the Board will disclose such interest to the Board, will not deliberate on the matter, will not vote on the matter, and will not attempt to influence other members of the Board regarding the matter. Additionally, Board members should refrain from engaging in conduct or actions, that give the appearance of a conflict of interest, embarrass the Board, or personally embarrass another Board member.

It is not the intent of this policy to prevent the District from contracting with corporations or businesses with which a Board member is an employee. The policy is designed to prevent placing a Board member in a position where his interest in the public schools and his interest in his place of employment (or other indirect interest) might conflict, and to avoid appearances of conflict of interest even though such conflict may not exist.

Nepotism

The Board may employ a teacher or other employee if that teacher or other employee is the father, mother, brother, sister, wife, husband, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, or brother-in-law of the Superintendent or any member of the Board. Such a relationship will not automatically disqualify a job applicant from employment with the school district.

However, the Board member shall declare his/her relationship with the job applicant and will refrain from debating, discussing, or voting on a nomination or other issue. The job applicant is expected to declare his/her relationship with the Board member as well.

This shall not apply to any person within such relationship or relationships who has been regularly employed by the Board prior to the inception of the relationship, the adoption of this policy, or a Board member's election.

Legal References:

Marsh v. Hanover, 113 NH667 (1973)
Atherton v. Concord, 109 NH 164 (1968)

Updated: September 9, 1999
Revised: February 10, 2003
Revised: April 27, 2009
Approved: June 22, 2009