

The Position of a Board Member in Respect to the Community/Code of Ethics

Board members are representatives of the community, acting under the authority of the state, whose duty it is to foster and protect the welfare of the community through the school. The board members shall acquaint themselves with the school and use their influence to create public opinion favorable to educational policies. The public is invited and welcomed to all board meetings. However, affairs that cannot be made public shall be taken up at a special meeting or through a meeting of the board as a committee of the whole.

The community has a right to expect each board member to:

1. Take their responsibility seriously.
2. Keep in constant touch with the schools.
3. Spend school funds wisely and make a financial report of such disbursements.
4. Regard themselves as a representative of the people and respect their interest.
5. Act broad-mindedly and impartially.

To support board unity, a member should:

1. Set aside personal interests.
2. Adhere to the policy-making and legislative functions of the board.
3. Accept and support majority decisions of the board.
4. Identify self with board policies and actions.

To demonstrate leadership, a member should:

1. Suspend judgment until the facts are available.
2. Make use of pertinent experience.
3. Help identify problems.
4. Have the ability to determine satisfactory solutions to problems.
5. Devote time outside of board meetings as board business may require.
6. Be willing to accept ideas from others.
7. Have enthusiastic interest in the welfare of the children.

To show understanding of the executive function, a member should:

1. Understand the desirability of delegating administrative responsibility.
2. Support the executive officer in his/her authorized functions.
3. Encourage teamwork between the executive officer and the board.
4. Recognize problems and conditions that are of executive concern.

To foster good group relationships, a member should:

1. Have ability to speak effectively in public.
2. Believe firmly in democratic processes and in the right of all groups to be heard.
3. Work tactfully and sympathetically with teacher groups and committees.
4. Understand how groups think and act.
5. Assist others in working effectively.
6. Have mature social poise.

To maintain effective personal relationships, a member should:

1. Be willing to work with fellow board members in spite of personality differences.
2. Display both tact and firmness in relationships with individuals.
3. Treat the public and teachers fairly and ethically, foster harmonious relationships.

To support courageous action, a member should:

1. Be able to weather criticism.
2. Maintain firm convictions.
3. Be willing to take sides in controversies.
4. Share responsibilities for board decisions.

Request of Citizens

A board member shall listen attentively to all requests and suggestions and may refer them to the superintendent of schools.

Interpret the Schools to the Community

Every board member will keep self-informed on school matters so that he/she can give intelligent answers when citizens of the community ask questions relative to the actions of the board or the conduct of the school.

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