

## **BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS**

### **Office/Custodian - Board of Education/Executive Assistant to the BOE/Legal Counsel**

#### **Code of Ethics for School Board Members**

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

- Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
- 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.
- Demonstrate positive communication skills, to include (written/digital), non-verbal (facial expression/body language) during all meetings in order to convey respectful collaboration among BOE members to work on behalf of the educational welfare of students and the school system and community. Refrain from use of profanity.
- Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the chief officers.
- Communicate to other board members and the chief officers 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 boards associations.
- 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 laws.
- Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

If an individual board member continually or willfully violates these tenets, the board is obligated to hold the individual member accountable via the process described below.

1. Notification of the violation given to the President of the Board, or in the case of violation by the President, notification is submitted to the Vice President, thus leading to a private conversation between the offending member and the board president or other individual.
2. If behavior continues, then a discussion shall be held in public session between offending member and the full board.
3. Public censure of the offending member by the full board