



# **Board of Education Livonia Public Schools School District**

## **BYLAWS OF THE BOARD**

## **BHA**

### **BOARD OPERATIONS CODE OF ETHICS**

**APRIL 21, 2025**

**As members of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, we shall promote the best interests of the school district as a whole, and will make decisions that place student learning and the success of all students first by adhering to the following educational and ethical standards:**

As a Board member,

- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or transgender status.
- I will be a personal advocate for the good work of the District.
- I will focus Board action on policy making, strategic planning, and designating and evaluating the Superintendent.
- I recognize that the role of the Board is to govern and oversee the management of the District. I will delegate authority to the Superintendent for the day-to-day operations of the District and will not seek to participate in the day-to-day operations.
- I will review and evaluate all Board Policies, Bylaws of the Board, procedures and processes of the Board, and will work to make desired changes so they will be current, relevant, and in accordance with state and/or federal laws. When requested, I will review all Administrative Procedures brought forth and give input to the Superintendent; however, the Board does not vote to approve Administrative Procedures.
- I will follow established Board Operating Procedures.
- I will come to Board meetings prepared to discuss and take action on all agenda items. I will read and study the Board meeting information seeking clarification, if needed, prior to each Board meeting.
- I will give the Superintendent and Board President notification of my concerns prior to the Board meetings, so that the concerns can be properly addressed.
- I understand that I have not only the right, but the duty, to express my views and opinions and ask questions at the Board table; and will make a good faith effort to understand the views of others.
- I recognize that the Board must make decisions as a whole in public. I will base all decisions on the available facts and my independent judgment, and I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to individuals or special interest groups.

- I will avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and, if such a conflict is unavoidable, I will disclose such interest and abstain from voting on such matters.
- I will work with my fellow Board members toward consensus when making decisions. Once a decision is made, I will support the decision and its implementation.
- I recognize that while I am free to express my personal views, the Board President is the spokesperson for the Board and the Superintendent is the spokesperson for the District. This includes all written and spoken communications, including social media.
- I will be respectful and listen to all ideas presented to the Board, be it from parents, staff, students, community members, other Board members, or other stakeholders. I will listen and then refer any person to appropriate personnel.
- I will communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent significant expression of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
- I will exercise caution when communicating between and among Board members, including electronic communication, and will abide by the Open Meetings Act.
- I will hold confidential all matters that, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, schools, or the district. I will keep confidential all information that is privileged under applicable law, including closed session discussions.
- I will stay informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information; for example, those sponsored by my state and national school board associations. I will share what I have learned with my Livonia Public Schools' colleagues, formally or informally, so as to keep our Board apprised of current issues and topics.
- I will take no private or public action that will compromise the Board, the Administration, or the District.
- I will refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain.
- I will support the hiring of those persons best qualified to serve as District staff.
- I will support and protect District personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- I will, along with my fellow Board members, will review, revise and sign this Code of Ethics annually at the beginning of each calendar year.

As Board President,

- I will ensure that persons addressing the Board follow established guidelines as outlined in Board policy.
- I will advise persons addressing the Board to do so in a respectful manner and not allow rude, or indecent behavior, profane or indecent discourse, to be directed to the Board, Superintendent, or others during Board meetings. I will not permit disruptive behavior and will advise attendees as such.
- I will ensure that all Board members are given an opportunity to express their views. I will work toward building consensus among all Board members.
- I will follow parliamentary procedure, to the extent that it does not conflict with Board policy or state law.