

# BYLAWS OF THE BOARD

BHA

## BOARD OPERATIONS CODE OF ETHICS

MARCH 21, 2016

**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 ~~race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, height, weight, marital status, or handicap/disability~~ **race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability.**
- **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 will 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 policies, bylaws, procedures, and processes, and will work to make desired changes so they will be current and relevant.
- **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 study the material in the Board packet and follow established Board Operating Procedures for additional information prior to each Board meeting.
- I will give the Superintendent or Board President notification of my concerns prior to the Board meetings, so that the concerns can be properly addressed.
- I will 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 will recognize that the Board must make decisions as a whole in public. I will render all decisions based 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 respect the decision and the implementation of the consensus of the Board once a decision has been made.~~
- **I will respect the consensus and decisions of the Board and support their implementation.**
- I will 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.
- 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 expression of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
- I will exercise caution when communicating between and among Board members via 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 respect the confidentiality of 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 take no private 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 employment 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, review, revise ~~(if appropriate)~~ and sign this Code of Ethics annually at the beginning of each 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 ~~inappropriate communication~~ rude and indecent behavior, **profane or indecent discourse**, to be directed to the Board, ~~or the Superintendent~~, **or others** during Board meetings.
- 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.