

Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	Copy of BOARD MEMBER ETHICS
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0144.2 - **BOARD MEMBER ETHICS**

As members of the Board of Education, Board members will strive to improve public education and to that end they will:

- A. attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
- B. recognize that they should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings;
- C. render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
- D. 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;
- E. work with the other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the District to the Superintendent;
- F. communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs;
- G. inform themselves about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the State and National School Boards Association;
- H. support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
- I. avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using their Board positions for personal partisan gain;
- J. take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;
- K. remember always that their first and greatest concern must be for the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.
- L. recognize the only link that board members have to labor negotiations is through the Superintendent during a closed session to discuss collective bargaining strategy.
- M. during public comment, always listen actively with respect, refrain from making judgement until all the facts are in, and distinguish between policy matters and operational issues that belong to administration.
- N. to make an informed decision, ask the Superintendent or the board president for additional information if you are unsure about supporting a matter before the board, to avoid surprises.

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