

### **Board Member Ethics**

The Geneva Board of Education accepts the Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards of the Illinois Association of School Boards as stated below:

As a member of my local Board of Education, I shall do my utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to the following commitments:

- A. ~~I shall represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups;~~

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- B. ~~I shall recognize that they should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings;~~

**I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and will not use my board membership for personal gain or publicity.**

- C. ~~I shall avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and shall not use my Board membership for personal gain or publicity;~~

**I will recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting.**

- D. ~~I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a Board meeting;~~

**I will take no private action that might compromise the board or administration and will respect the confidentiality of privileged information.**

- E. ~~I shall take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and shall respect the confidentiality of privileged information;~~

**I will abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.**

F. ~~I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;~~

**I will encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and will participate in board discussions in an open, honest and respectful manner, honoring differences of opinion or perspective.**

G. ~~I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board;~~

**I will prepare for, attend and actively participate in school board meetings.**

H. ~~I shall be involved and knowledgeable about not only local educational concerns, but also about State and National issues;~~

**I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the board, and remain reasonably knowledgeable about local, state, national, and global education issues.**

I. ~~I shall regularly attend Board meetings and carry my share of member responsibilities;~~

**I will respectfully listen to those who communicate with the board, seeking to understand their views, while recognizing my responsibility to represent the interests of the entire community.**

J. ~~I shall work with the other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the District to the Superintendent;~~

**I will strive for a positive working relationship with the superintendent, respecting the superintendent's authority to advise the board, implement board policy, and administer the district.**

~~K. I shall communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs;~~

**I will model continuous learning and work to ensure good governance by taking advantage of board member development opportunities, such as those sponsored by my state and national school board associations, and encourage my fellow board members to do the same.**

~~L. I shall inform myself 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 Associations;~~

**I will strive to keep my board focused on its primary work of clarifying the district purpose, direction and goals, and monitoring district performance.**

~~M. I shall support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;~~

~~N. I shall remember always that my first and greatest concern must be for the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.~~

~~Source: Board of Directors, National School Boards Association. Illinois Association of School Boards~~

Adopted 6/26/06

Reviewed by Policy Committee 7/18/2011; 10/11/2011

To Board First Reading 11/14/2011