

Code of Ethics for School Board Members

As a member of my local Board of Trustees, I will strive to improve student achievement in public education, and to that end I will:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, ~~having read my packet enduring that and become~~I am informed ~~concerning about~~ the issues to be considered at ~~those the~~ meetings;
2. Recognize that ~~I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings~~the Board must comply with the Open Meeting Law and only has authority to make decisions at official Board meetings;
3. ~~Render~~Make 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;~~

~~Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration to the Superintendent;~~

~~Recognize and respect the responsibilities that properly are delegated to the Superintendent;~~

~~Communicate to the Superintendent expression of public reaction to Board policies, school programs, or staff;~~

~~Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the Idaho and National School Boards Associations;~~

~~Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on regular and impartial evaluation of staff;~~

~~Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain;~~

~~Avoid compromising the Board or administration by inappropriate individual action or comments, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;~~

4. Understand that the Board makes decisions as a team. Individual Board Members may not commit the Board to any action unless so authorized by official Board action;
5. Recognize that decisions are made by a majority vote and the outcome should be supported by all Board Members;

6. Acknowledge that policy decisions are a primary function of the Board and should be made after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings, recognizing that authority to administer policy rests with the Superintendent;
7. Be open, fair, and honest; have no hidden agendas; and respect the right of other Board Members to have opinions and ideas which differ from mine;
8. Recognize that the Superintendent is the Board's advisor and should be present at all meetings, except where the Superintendent is the subject matter, or where the Superintendent's presence is a conflict of interest. Further, the Superintendent shall not be present during any Board deliberation regarding a student expulsion hearing and/or when the Board deliberates regarding a teacher non-renewal or termination advanced by the administration;
9. Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office while refraining from communications that may create conditions of bias should a concern ever rise to the attention of the Board as a hearings panel;
10. Keep abreast of important developments in educational trends, research, and practices by individual study and through participation in programs providing such information;
11. Respect the right of the public to be informed about District decisions and school operations;
12. Understand that I will receive information that is confidential and cannot be shared;
13. Give staff the respect and consideration due skilled, professional employees and support the employment of those best qualified to serve as District staff, while insisting on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
14. Present personal criticism of District operations to the Superintendent, not to District staff or to a Board meeting;
15. Refuse to use my Board position for personal or family gain or prestige. I will announce any conflicts of interest before Board action is taken; and
16. Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

Policy History:

Adopted on: 06-12-06

Revised on: _____

~~No Prior Board Policy~~