

USD 457 Board of Education Standards

A school board member has no legal powers unless participating at a properly noticed school board meeting, or acting on behalf of the school board after the board formally grants authority to do so. Thus, it is essential that every school board member work as a member of the broader leadership team to perform board duties and act in a manner consistent with the Standards.

Board members can demonstrate personal commitment to the Standards by signing this document signifying agreement to uphold the principles of the Standards, both, in letter and spirit.

As citizens of the United States, board members have certain Constitutional rights, including freedom of speech that cannot be taken away, whether or not you choose to sign this document. The only sections of the Standards that require legal compliance are the “*conflict of interest*” and “*act only as a member of the board*”. All other sections represent effective practice.

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

BOARD GOVERNANCE

- Recognize that the role of the board is to govern and oversee the management of the district. Board members 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.
- Act only as a member of the board and do not assume any individual authority when the board is not in session, unless otherwise directed by the board.
- Make decisions based on the educational welfare of all children.
- Make attendance at all regularly scheduled board meetings a priority, insofar as possible, review advance materials about the issues to be considered on each agenda, and give full attention to meeting presentations.
- Maintain confidentiality of information and discussion.
- Rely on school policies that are continually updated and aligned with Kansas and federal education laws, as well as, guidance from the superintendent, when making board decisions.
- Request recommendations from the superintendent and seek legal counsel, when required for full and informed board consideration of issues requiring legal expertise.

BOARD-ADMINISTRATION RELATIONS

- Provide policy support for school administrators in the performance of their duties and delegate authority commensurate with those responsibilities.
- Expect the superintendent to keep the board adequately informed through regular written and oral reports.
- Maintain open and candid communication between the board and the superintendent with the understanding that the board will keep the superintendent adequately informed of any issues or concerns that they have with regard to the district or they wished to have discussed during a board meeting.
- Refer complaints, requests, and concerns to the superintendent or other appropriate staff members.
- Avoid making commitments that may compromise the decision-making ability of the board or administrators.
- Hold the superintendent accountable by jointly creating job performance standards and, at least annually, perform a comprehensive evaluation process based on the job description, contract, and identified performance standards.
- Recognize that a board member’s responsibility is to see that schools are well run, but not to run them.

BOARD MEMBER RELATIONS/UNITY

- Understand that board members have not only the right, but the duty, to express their views, opinions and ask questions at the board table, as well as, make a good faith effort to understand the views of others.
- Voice opinions respectfully, maintain good relations with other board members, and respect and support the decisions made by the majority of the board.
- Retain independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgement to individuals or special interest groups.

PERSONNEL RELATIONS

- Individual board members should not give directives to any school administrator or employee, publicly or privately.
- Support school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- Work fairly, ethically, and truthfully with employees.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Encourage collaboration between the district and community.
- Believe firmly in the democratic process and the right of all groups to be heard.
- Treat stakeholders fairly and ethically – listen to their concerns and refer them to the appropriate school personnel.

BOARD PREPARATION AND TRAINING

- Be informed about educational issues through individual study and by participating in board development opportunities.
- Support new school board members by sharing experience and knowledge.
- Ensure that adequate board orientation and team building opportunities are available for board members and administrators.

I agree to abide by the principles outlined in the Board of Education Standards and will do everything in my power to work as a productive member of the governance team.

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Attest:

Clerk, Board of Education

Date