

Bylaws of the Board

Code of Ethics for Board Members

The success of every school system depends on an effective working relationship between the Board of Education and Superintendent. This code incorporates those standards and responsibilities most critical to productive Board and Superintendent relations. Members of the Board of Education subscribe to the “Standards of Leadership for Members of Boards of Education” recommended by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Board of Directors, as follows:

1. I will be a staunch advocate of high quality free public education for all Connecticut children. In fulfilling my responsibilities, I will think of “children first”.
2. I will, as an agent of the state, uphold and enforce all laws, rules, regulations and court orders pertaining to public schools. I will strive to bring any needed change only through legal and ethical procedures.
3. I will strive to help create public schools which meet the individual educational needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, physical condition or social standing.
4. I will work unremittingly to help my community understand the importance of proper support for public education.
5. I will recognize the need for fiscal responsibility in the decision-making process especially as it relates to cost/benefit considerations.
6. I will join with my Board, staff, community and students in becoming fully informed about the nature, value and direction of contemporary education in our society. I will support needed change in our schools.
7. I will strive to serve as a communications link between the community and our schools to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about our schools, and that the school staff understands the aspirations and desires of the community.
8. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to “run the schools” through administration, but together with my fellow Board members to see that they are well-run through effective policies.
9. I will confine my Board action to policy-making, planning and appraisal, and will help to frame policies and plans only after my Board has consulted those who will be affected by its actions.
10. I will arrive at conclusions only after discussing all aspects of the issue at an open meeting. I will respect the opinions of others, and abide by the principle of majority-rule.
11. I will recognize that authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in meeting, and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.

12. I will acknowledge that the Board represents the entire school community, and will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interests or partisan political groups. I will never use my position on the Board for personal gain or for friends.
13. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to schools which, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools.
14. I will insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical.
15. I will strive to appoint the best professional leader available when a vacancy exists in the chief administrative position.
16. I will strive to appoint the best trained professional personnel available, upon recommendation by the appropriate administrative officer.
17. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. I will strive to ensure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities, but the necessary authority to perform effectively.
18. I will refer all complaints through the proper "chain of command" within the system, and will act on such complaints at public meetings only when administrative solutions fail.
19. The Board as a whole shall request data and/or reports from district personnel not as an individual.

Legal Reference: "Connecticut Code of Ethics for Boards of Education" printed in Responsibilities of Board of Education Membership (revised June, 1989)

Bylaw adopted by the Board: October 17, 2011