

BB 9010 PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Note: *Based on sound governance practices, AASB recommends that each member present his/her position and all pertinent information before the Board makes its decisions. The following bylaw is not meant to infringe upon Board members' first amendment rights. It is intended as a reminder that individual Board members have a duty not to express themselves outside of the Board meeting in ways that may jeopardize the Board's ability to act effectively.*

Before voting on any issue, all Board members shall be encouraged to present whatever evidence they may feel important to the matter at hand. The Board shall fully consider the implications and relevancy of all information so presented. All opinions, reactions and positions shall be openly discussed, so that each member may understand all aspects of the issue before the Board makes its decision. Any Board member who may wish to criticize or oppose any specific Board action should do so during the Board meeting.

Once a Board decision has been reached, all Board members shall abide by that decision until it is amended or rescinded by subsequent Board action. When Board members express their opinions outside of the Board meeting, it is their responsibility to respect the democratic nature of Board decision making and always identify personal viewpoints as such.

Public statements in the name of the School Board shall be issued by the Board president or, if appropriate, by the Superintendent or designee at the direction of the Board president.

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential Information)

Adopted 6/01

North Slope Borough School District

BB 9011 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Confidential information that is produced for or that comes out during executive sessions of the Board shall not be divulged or released unless a majority of the Board agree to release the information, subject to applicable laws regarding executive sessions and confidential records. This bylaw is not intended to cause the withholding of information about the purpose of executive sessions of the Board.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Records)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Information from executive session shall be released by the president or chairman of the meeting in which the executive session is held.

Any Board member who releases confidential information contrary to the provisions of this bylaw may be publicly censured by a majority vote of the Board.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential Information)

(cf. 9321 - Executive Sessions)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[44.62.310-312](#) Alaska's open meeting act

Adopted 6/01

North Slope Borough School District

BB 9020 BOARD STANDARDS

The Board believes that it should hold itself to high standards of performance, accountability and conduct in order to meet the public trust that has been bestowed by the public election of each member.

Therefore, the Board has adopted the Board standards established by the Association of Alaska School Boards, which provide a framework for effective school governance and keep the Board's focus on student achievement.

Regular efforts will be made to orient new Board members to the Board standards, provide on-going Board development opportunities to assist all Board members in meeting those standards, and assess Board performance to measure the Board's effectiveness in meeting them.

(cf. 9000 - Role of Board and Members)

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

(cf. 9240 - Board Development)

(cf. 9400 - Board Self-Evaluation)

Adopted 6/01

Added 9/99 - AASB

North Slope Borough School District

E 9020 BOARD STANDARDS

The Board standards developed by the Association of Alaska School Boards and listed below have been adopted by the North Slope Borough School Board as a standard of performance that this School Board will constantly strive to meet.

Vision

The Board Creates A Shared Vision To Enhance Student Achievement

- 1.1 Board develops a dynamic shared vision for education that reflects student needs and community priorities.
- 1.2 Board keeps the district and community focused on educating students.
- 1.3 Board demonstrates its strong commitment to vision by using the shared vision to guide decision making.

Structure

The Board Provides A Structure That Supports The Vision

- 2.1 Board establishes a management system that results in effective decision making processes and enables all the people to help the district achieve its vision and make the best use of its resources.
- 2.2 Board ensures that long and short term plans are developed and annually revised through a process involving extensive participation, information gathering, research, and reflection.
- 2.3 Board sets high instructional standards based on the best available information about the knowledge and skills students will need in the future.
- 2.4 Board acts to ensure vision and structure comply with legal requirements.
- 2.5 Board encourages and supports innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and the continuous renewal of education.

Accountability

The Board Measures District Performance Toward Accomplishing the Vision And Reports the Results To The Public

- 3.1 Board receives regular reports on student progress and needs based on a variety of assessments to evaluate the quality and equity of the educational program.
- 3.2 Board evaluates the Superintendent and Board performance annually and reports the result to the public.
- 3.3 Board ensures long and short term plans are evaluated and revised with the needs of students in mind.
- 3.4 Board uses an understandable format to periodically report district performance to the public.

Advocacy

The Board Champions The Vision

- 4.1 Board leads in celebrating the achievements of students and accomplishments of others who contribute to education.
- 4.2 Board advocates for children and families and establishes strong relationships with parents and other mentors to help support students.
- 4.3 Board establishes partnerships with individuals, groups, and organizations to promote educational opportunities for all students.
- 4.4 Board promotes School Board service as a meaningful way to make long term contributions to the local community and society.
- 4.5 The Board is proactive in identifying and addressing issues that affect the education of students.

Conduct & Ethics

The Board And Its Individual Members Conduct District Business In A Fair, Respectful, And Responsible Manner

- 5.1 Board and its individual members act in a manner that reflects service to the community on behalf of students.
- 5.2 Board demonstrates a commitment to continually improving teamwork, problem solving, and decision making skills through a conscious program of Board development.
- 5.3 Expenditures for Board activities are clearly identified in the budget, related to the district vision, and open to public scrutiny.

Adopted 6/01

BB 9271 CODE OF ETHICS

The North Slope Borough School District School Board has adopted the following Code of Ethics.

AS A MEMBER OF MY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD, REPRESENTING ALL THE CITIZENS OF MY DISTRICT, I RECOGNIZE THAT:

1. My fellow citizens have entrusted me with the educational development of the children and youth of this community.
2. The public expects my first and greatest concern to be in the best interest of students without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
3. The future welfare of the community, Alaska, and of the nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.
4. My fellow Board members and I must take the initiative in helping all the people of this community to have and understand all the facts all the time about their schools, to the end that they will readily support the finest possible school program, school staff, and school facilities.
5. Legally, Board authority is derived from the state, which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the district, and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the Board and the people of the community for the exercise of local autonomy.
6. I must never neglect my personal obligation to the community and my legal obligation to the state, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization, but that, beyond these, I have a moral and civic obligation to the nation which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States of America are kept strong and free.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, IT WILL BE MY CONSTANT ENDEAVOR TO:

1. Devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Board member so that I may render effective and creditable service.
2. Work with my fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points at issue.
3. Base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; to vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.
4. Remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and to conduct my relationships with the school staff, and local citizenry, and all media on the basis of this fact.
5. Comply with federal and state laws and regulations, as well as District policies and regulations, including the Board Standards (BB 9020), in my work as a Board Member.
6. Keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of Board service during executive session or information required by law to be confidential.
7. Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the district.
8. Not use Board privileges for private gain, to promote political candidates, or for partisan political activities.
9. Recognize that my behavior reflects on my position, the whole school board, and the educational community and, therefore, conduct myself in a manner that will bring credit to the District and the Board avoiding inappropriate conduct and acts of moral turpitude.
10. Recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools, as it is to plan for the business of school operation.
11. Bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the employed district Superintendent and to the professional and classified staff.
12. Welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media in the district with respect to establishing policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.
13. Support my state and national school boards associations.
14. Finally, to strive step-by-step toward ideal conditions for most effective Board service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.

BOARD SELF MONITORING AND ACTION RELATED TO THE CODE OF ETHICS AND BOARD STANDARDS.

The Board shall strive to periodically review the Code of Ethics and Board Standards (BB 9020). In addition, the Board shall

strive to address any concerns regarding individual Board Member conduct in a professional manner such as, by way of example only, one-to-one discussions, a Board executive session, a written letter of concern, or, where deemed necessary, through Board action. Board action can include, but is not limited to, reprimands, resolutions of concern, public or private censure, or action to remove for a defined period of time certain Board benefits such as District provided travel, District provided travel benefits (e.g. car rental), or District honorariums or pay. Board action regarding an individual Board member and this Code of Ethics or Board Standards shall require a vote of five (5) or more members to take action.

Adopted 6/01

Revised 2/06

Revised 5/15

North Slope Borough School District