

School Board Member's Code of Ethics

0144.02

As a representative of all the citizens of my district, I am responsible for serving the best interests of the community and its students, utilizing all available resources toward that end. My oath of office requires me to uphold the laws and Constitution of the United States and Wisconsin, but in addition to that, I shall strive to:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
2. Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
3. Recognize that I exercise collective authority when acting together with fellow board members and not individual authority;
4. Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
5. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members;
6. Seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff, and all elements of the community;
7. Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
8. Communicate to other board members and the superintendent expressions of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
9. Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school board associations;
10. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
11. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest;
12. Take no private action that will compromise the board or administration;
13. Preserve the confidentiality of information and documents to which I have access in the scope of my office and which are privileged, exempt, or prohibited from public disclosure under applicable law;
14. Support and protect the civil and human rights of all members of the school community;
15. Share in the responsibility of all board decisions, regardless of how I voted;
16. Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

0144.02(a)

Legal References: WI Statutes Sections:
19.59, [Ethical standards for public officials]
19.81, [Open Meetings Law]
WI Fair Employment Law, chapters 111.31 to 111.395, Wis. Stats.
946.12, [Misconduct in public office]

Cross References: 0144.03, Conflicts of Interest
3200.00, Employee Discrimination and Harassment - Employment
Opportunities

Approved: May 11, 1987

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