

GP-6

BOARD MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum. ~~when acting as Board members.~~

Accordingly:

1. Board members will represent the interests of the citizens of the entire school district. This accountability to the whole district supersedes:
 - a. ~~Any conflicting loyalty~~ **Conflicts** a member may have to other advocacy or interest groups;
 - b. ~~Loyalty~~ **Conflicts** based upon membership on other boards or staffs;
 - c. Conflicts based upon the personal interest of any Board member who is also a parent of a student in the district;
 - d. Conflicts based upon being an employee or a relative of an employee of the district; or
 - e. Conflicts based upon the member's residence in a director's area.
2. Members must avoid conflicts of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility:
 - a. There will be no business conducted by a member with the organization except to the extent expressly permitted by law and appropriately disclosed. Members will annually disclose their involvements with other organizations, with vendors, or any associations which might be or might reasonably be seen as being a conflict.
 - b. When the Board is to decide upon an issue about which a member has an unavoidable conflict of interest that member shall absent herself or himself from, not only the vote, but also from the deliberations.
 - c. Board members will not use their Board position to obtain employment in the organization for themselves, family members, or close associates. Should a Board member apply for employment, he or she must first resign from the Board.
3. Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization.
 - a. Members' interaction with the Superintendent or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly Board authorized. Members will not give personal direction to any part of the operational organization or assume personal responsibility for resolving operational problems or complaints.
 - b. Members' interaction with public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any Board member but the President to speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions.

- c. Except for participation in Board deliberation about whether the Superintendent has achieved a reasonable interpretation of Board policy, members will not express publicly individual negative judgments of performance of the superintendent or the superintendent's employees.
- 4. Members will protect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature and other matters that may compromise the integrity or legal standing of the Board and district, including matters discussed in executive session.
- 5. To build trust among members and to ensure an environment conducive to effective governance, individual members will:
 - a. Focus on issues rather than personalities
 - b. Support decisions of the full board
 - c. Exercise honesty in all written and interpersonal interaction, never intentionally misleading or misinforming each other
 - d. Criticize privately, praise publicly
 - e. Make every reasonable effort to protect the integrity and promote the positive image of the district and one another
 - f. Never embarrass each other or the district

December 14, 2005 – Adoption

Summary of changes:

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|--------------------|----------------------------|
| First line: | Delete ending |
| 1. A. | Delete/change words |
| 1. B. | Delete/change words |