

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

Background

The authority of the Board of School Directors is derived from the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, and other applicable legislation enacted by the General Assembly, which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the District and which determines the discretionary power left with the Board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy. The exercise of this discretion and autonomy by Board members must be performed in an ethical manner.

Objective

The objective of this policy is to define and clarify a code of ethics to which each School Board member ascribes.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board that, in addition to complying with the District's Code of Ethics as may be in effect from time to time, each Board member:

1. Shall recognize that the citizens of Mt. Lebanon have entrusted each Board member with the educational development of the children and youth of this community.
2. Shall have as his or her first concern the best interests of each and every student without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
3. Shall represent all his or her District constituents honestly and refuse to surrender his or her responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
4. Shall avoid any conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety that could result from his or her position, and shall not use his or her Board directorship for personal gain or publicity.
5. Shall recognize that a Board Member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a School Board meeting.
6. Shall take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and shall respect the confidentiality of privileged information, including matters discussed in executive session, as well as confidential student or personnel information.
7. Shall abide by majority decisions of the Board , while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions.
8. Shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by fellow Board members and others.

9. Shall work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate on points at issue.
10. Shall be involved and knowledgeable about local educational concerns as well as State and national issues.
11. Shall devote time, thought and study to his or her duties and responsibilities as a Board member in order to render effective and creditable service.
12. Shall base his or her personal decision upon available facts in each situation, and shall vote his or her honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
13. Shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use his or her position as a Board member to benefit any individual or agency apart from the total interest of the District.
14. Shall welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens with respect to current District operations and proposed future developments.
15. Shall seek permission of sender before disseminating communication to the public with the exception of materials in Board packets which are permitted under Policy BBAA, Board Member Authority and Responsibilities, or any other applicable Board Policy.

Communication

This Policy shall be communicated to:

1. District Staff
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted August 15, 2005
Revised May 24, 2010