

BCA SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHICS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHICS (Massachusetts Association of School Committees Code of Ethics)

Preamble

The acceptance of a code of ethics implies the understanding of the basic organization of school committees under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The oath of office of a Committee member binds the individual member to adherence to those state laws which apply to school committees, since school committees are agencies of the state.

This code of ethics delineates three areas of responsibility of Committee members in addition to that referenced above:

1. Community responsibility
2. Responsibility to school administration
3. Relationships to fellow Committee members

A Committee member in their relations with their community and the District should:

1. Realize that their primary responsibility is to the children.
2. Recognize that their basic function is to be policy-making and not administrative
3. Remember that they are one of a team and must abide by, support, and carry out all Committee decisions once they are made.
4. Be well informed concerning the duties of a Committee member on both a local and state level.
5. Remember that they represent the entire District at all times.
6. Accept the office as a Committee member as means of unselfish service with no intent to “play politics,” in any sense of the word, or to benefit personally from his/her Committee activities.

A Committee member in their relations with school administrators should:

ORIGINAL ADOPTION: 4/24/07

REVISION: 12/16/21

FIRST READING: 3/20/07; 12/16/08

SECOND READING: 4/24/07; 1/6/09

ADOPTION: 7/21/09

REVIEW:

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1. Endeavor to establish, clearly defined policies which will direct and support the administration.
2. Recognize and support the administrative chain of command and refuse to act on complaints as an individual outside the administration.
3. Give the chief administrator full responsibility for discharging their professional duties and hold them responsible for acceptable results.
4. Refer all complaints to the administrative staff for solution and only discuss them at Committee meetings if such solutions fail. Committee members who feel the serious complaints need to come before the Committee should request that the issue be placed on the Committee agenda.

A Committee member in their relations with their fellow Committee members should:

1. Recognize that Committee action at official meetings is binding and that the member alone cannot bind the Committee outside of such meetings.
2. Realize that they should not make statements or promises of how they will vote on matters that will come before the Committee.
3. Uphold the intent of executive sessions and respect the privileged communications that occur in executive sessions.
4. Make decisions only after all facts on a question have been presented and discussed.
5. Vigilantly avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of same and make timely disclosure to the full Committee of all pertinent information in this respect so that proper and disinterested decision-making can occur.

SOURCE: Massachusetts Association of School Committees

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