



A World-Class Community of Learners

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*Fridley Public Schools is committed to creating a welcoming, respectful environment that provides an equitable and inclusive education for each student, staff and community member by ensuring that opportunities, access, and resources are aligned to support the growth and academic achievement of each student.*

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## 209 School Board Member Code of Ethics

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assist School Board members in recognizing the role of individual School Board members and the contribution that each must make to develop an effective and responsible School Board.

### II. General Statement of Policy

Each School Board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

#### A. As a member of the School Board I will:

1. Listen.
2. Recognize the integrity of predecessors and associates.
3. Appreciate the merit of their work.
4. Be motivated by a desire to serve the pupils and the taxpayers of the district.
5. Attempt to be informed on the proper duties and functions of a School Board member.
6. Recognize that it is a responsibility, together with other School Board members, to see that the School District is properly run by professional administrators.
7. Work with the administration employees of the School Board – not over or around them.
8. Recognize that School Board business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the School Board.

#### B. In performing the proper functions of a School Board member I will:

1. Adhere to education policies unless necessity requires otherwise.
2. Meet the legal responsibility as part of a policy forming body and not as an administrative officer.
3. Act as a trustee of public education and protect, conserve, and advance its progress.

#### C. To maintain relations with other members of the School Board I will:

1. Respect the right of others to have and express opinions.
2. Recognize that authority rests with the School Board in legal session – not with the individual members of the School Board except as authorized by law.
3. Make no disparaging remarks, in or out of School Board meetings, about other members of the School Board or their opinions.
4. Make decisions in School Board meetings after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.
5. Delegate details of School Board action to administrative employees.



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6. Insist that special committees be appointed to serve only in an advisory capacity to the School Board.

**D. In meeting the responsibilities to the community I will:**

1. Attempt to appraise both the present and future educational needs of the school district.
2. Attempt to obtain adequate financial support for the school district's program.
3. Interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and translate them into the educational program of the school district.
4. Consider it an important responsibility to interpret the educational program of the school as it relates to the needs of the community.
5. Insist that business transactions of the school district be ethical and open.

**E. In working with the superintendent of schools and staff I will:**

1. Hold the superintendent responsible for the administration of the school district.
2. Give the superintendent authority commensurate with the responsibility.
3. Assure that the school district is administered by the best professional personnel available.
4. Consider the recommendation of the superintendent in the hiring of all employees.
5. Participate in School Board action after considering the recommendation of the superintendent and only after the superintendent has furnished adequate information supporting the recommendation.
6. Expect the superintendent to keep the School Board adequately informed at all times through both oral and written reports.
7. Spend adequate time in School Board meetings on educational policies.
8. Offer the superintendent counsel and advice.
9. Recognize the status of the superintendent as the chief executive officer and a non-voting, ex officio member of the School Board.
10. Refer all complaints to the proper administrative representative or insist that they be presented in writing to the whole School Board.
11. Present any personal criticisms of employees to the superintendent unless they involve the superintendent and then in such case may present to the Board Chair.
12. Provide support for the superintendent and employees of the school district so they may perform their proper functions on a professional level.

**F. In fulfilling the legal obligations as a School Board Member I will:**

1. Comply with all federal, state, and local laws relating to work as a School Board Member.
2. Comply with all school district policies as adopted by the School Board.
3. Abide by all rules and regulations as promulgated by the Minnesota Department of Education and other state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over school districts.
4. Recognize that school district business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the School Board.
5. Avoid conflicts of interest and refrain from using the position for personal gain.
6. Take no private action that will compromise the School Board or administration.



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7. Guard the confidentiality of information that is protected under applicable law or rule

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. 123B.02, Subd. 1 (School District Powers)  
Minn. Stat. 123B.09 (School Board Powers)  
Minn. Stat. 123B.143, Subd. 1, (Superintendent)

***Cross References:***

None

***SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:***

Revised as Policy 4.500  
Revised as Policy 209 December 21, 1999  
Revised March 15, 2011  
Revised April 16, 2013  
Revised October 18, 2022