

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in September	Descriptor Term: Boardmanship Code of Conduct	Descriptor Code: 1.2021	Issued Date: 09/23/19
		Rescinds: 1.1061	Issued: 04/15/14

The Board adopts these standards as recommended by the Tennessee School Boards Association as a guide to its members as they provide educational leadership for the youth of our state.

MY RELATIONS TO THE CHILDREN

1. I will at all times think in terms of “children first,” always determining how my actions and decisions will affect the education and training of children.
2. I will seek to provide equal educational opportunities for all children.

MY RELATIONS TO MY COMMUNITY

1. I will endeavor to appraise fairly both the present and future educational needs of the community and to support improvements as finances permit.
2. I will represent at all times the entire school community and refuse to represent special interests or partisan politics.
3. I will endeavor to keep the community informed about the progress and needs of the schools.
4. I will represent the Board and the school district to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support.
5. I will refer to other board members, staff, students, and the public with respect when using social media.

MY RELATIONS TO TEACHERS AND PERSONNEL

1. I will support the employment of those best qualified to serve as employees and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
2. I will support and protect personnel in performance of their duties.
3. I will not criticize employees publicly but will express any relevant concerns to the Director of Schools for investigation and action if necessary.

MY RELATIONS WITH OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

1. I will understand that the Board makes decisions as a team and that individual board members may not commit the Board to any action.
2. I will accept the will of the majority vote in all cases and give support to the resulting action.
3. I will work harmoniously with other board members without trying to dominate the Board or neglect my share of the work.
4. I will refuse to make promises as to how I will vote on a matter that will come before the Board.
5. I will make decisions only after a complete discussion of items at a board meeting.

MY RELATIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

1. I will support the full administrative authority as well as responsibility for the Director of Schools to properly discharge all professional duties.
2. I will hold the Director of Schools accountable for working with staff and requiring them to work within the framework of policies set up by the Board.
3. I will understand that the Board sets the standards for the school district through policy and that board members do not manage the district on a day-to-day basis.
4. I will refer all complaints and concerns to the Director of Schools and abstain from individual counsel and action in regard to staff members.

MY RELATIONS TO MYSELF

1. I will uphold the integrity and independence of the position.
2. I will become familiar with federal and state education laws and school board policies.
3. I will educate myself about my duties and responsibilities and current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information.
4. I will continually advocate for the goals of the school district.
5. I will vote and act impartially for the good of the school district.

6. I will avoid conflicts of interest, and I will refrain from using my position on the Board for personal or partisan gain.
7. I will attend all board meetings and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
8. I will model civility to students, employees, and all elements of the community by encouraging the free expression of opinion by all board members and engaging in respectful dialogue with fellow board members on matters being considered by the Board.