

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

The Board of Education of the Indian River School District recognizes its responsibility to be a role model of fairness in school governance and to lead by example. As a result, the Indian River School District Board of Education will follow the Delaware Annotated Code and the District's policy governing school board member ethics. Each member of the Board will review and attest to the following provisions at its annual organizational meeting.

### *CODE OF ETHICS*

**As a member of the Indian River School District Board of Education, I will strive to improve public education and to that end I will:**

1. Make decisions based on the educational welfare of all children in the District, working to ensure that children of all races, all demographics, and socioeconomic backgrounds receive a high quality education in a safe, respectful and caring environment.
2. Recognize the trust bestowed by the community on the Board to represent its best interests in promoting the general welfare of the students attending the public schools.
3. Bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings by which its schools are to be administered.
4. Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
5. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or Administration.
6. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.
7. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff and all stakeholders.
8. Recognize that the best solutions and answers come after discussion and deliberation.
9. Refrain from public attacks and criticism of the character of a fellow Board member.
10. Focus Board action on goal setting, long-term planning and evaluation; delegate authority for the administration of schools to the superintendent.
11. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff.
12. Insist on regular and impartial evaluation of staff and district performance against the goals and objectives set by the Board for the school year.
13. Remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meets of the Board, and therefore must conduct my relationship with the school staff, local citizenry and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.
14. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest.

15. Inform myself about current educational issues both through individual study and participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school Boards' associations.
16. Communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
17. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings and the 3 high school graduations. Attend other school functions insofar as possible and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
18. Avail myself of orientation and other board-related, information-sharing workshops.
19. Explicitly and simultaneously state I am expressing a personally held view when sharing a position or viewpoint in contradiction to established Board positions or actions.
20. Conduct all public business in full accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), maximizing the trust of the school community and maintaining required confidentiality.
21. Comply with the State Employees', Officers' and Officials' Code of Conduct located at 29 Del. C. §5801 *et. seq*

Adopted 1/22/88

Revised 6/19/12, 7/26/21