

BOARD POLICY: CONFLICT OF INTEREST, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

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Section A - Introduction

The members of the Board of Education of District #225 are entrusted with one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to a citizen of this community - that of helping to plan the education of the secondary school students of the community. In making decisions concerning matters before the Board of Education, members of the Board shall maintain the educational welfare of all students as their paramount consideration.

Section B - Provisions Governing Conflict of Interest Regarding Contractual Matters

The provisions governing the conduct of school board members relative to the avoidance of conflict of interest in dealing with contractual matters are contained in Section 5/10-9 of the School Code of Illinois.

Section C - Board Member Ethics

1. Each member of the Board ascribes to the following code of ethics:
 - 1) I shall represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
 - 2) I shall avoid any conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and shall not use my Board membership for personal gain or publicity.
 - 3) I 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 Board meeting.
 - 4) I shall take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and shall respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
 - 5) I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
 - 6) I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board.
 - 7) I shall be involved and knowledgeable about local educational concerns as well as state and national issues.

Section C - Board Member Ethics (continued)

2. In addition, I shall encourage the Board to pursue the following goals:
 - 1) The development of educational programs which meet the individual needs of every student, regardless of ability, race, sex, creed, social standing or disability;
 - 2) The development of procedures for the regular and systematic evaluation of programs, staff performance and Board operations to ensure progress toward educational and fiscal goals;
 - 3) The development of effective Board policies which provide direction for the operation of the schools and delegate authority to the superintendent for their administration;
 - 4) The development of systematic communications which ensure that the Board, administration, staff, students and community are fully informed and that the staff understands the community's aspirations for its schools; and
 - 5) The development of sound business practices which ensure that every dollar spent produces maximum benefits.

Source: Code of Conduct, Illinois Association of School Boards

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