

Internal Board Policies - Board Members**8272 Code of Ethics**

It shall be the policy of Plattsmouth Community Schools that members of the Board of Education will exercise their responsibilities in accordance with the following Code of Ethics:

1. As a member of the local Board of Education, representing all the citizens of the Plattsmouth Community School District, each Board member will recognize:
 - a. That he or she has been entrusted with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.
 - b. That the community expects that the first and greatest concern of a school Board member will be the best interest of each and every one of the young people enrolled in the district's schools.
 - c. That the future welfare of this community, of this state, and of our nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education provided in Plattsmouth Community School to meet the needs of every learner.
 - d. That members of the Board of Education must collectively take the initiative in helping all the people in this community to have updated, accurate information about the public schools system, and to provide the finest possible school programs, school staff, and school facilities.
 - e. That by statute the authority of the Board of Education is derived from the state which is ultimately responsible for the organization and operation of the public schools and which determines the degree of discretionary power exercised by the Board representing the people of the Plattsmouth community.
 - f. That a school Board member must never neglect his or her personal obligation to the community and legal obligation to the State of Nebraska, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group or organization; but that, beyond this, each school Board member has a moral and civic obligation to our country which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States are kept strong and free.
2. In view of the foregoing consideration, it must be the constant endeavor of each school Board member:
 - a. To devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school Board member so that he/she may render effective and creditable service.
 - b. To work with fellow school Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation so as to convert differences of opinion which arise during discussion and debate into a consensus for the benefit of the students enrolled in Plattsmouth Community Schools.

- c. To base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation, to vote honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board of Education.
- d. To remember at all times that individual Board members have no local authority outside the meetings of the Board of Education, and to conduct relationships with school staff members, local citizens, and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.
- e. To resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a school Board member to benefit either oneself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school system.
- f. To recognize that it is as important for the Board of Education to understand and evaluate the educational program of Plattsmouth Community Schools as it is to plan for the business of the school district.
- g. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board of Education is to establish and maintain the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be the primary responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and the professional and non-professional staff members who are employed to work with the Superintendent of Schools.
- h. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media of communication in Plattsmouth Community Schools with respect to the establishment of policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.
- i. To strive step by step to achieve the ideal conditions for the most effective service by a Board of Education to its community, in a spirit of teamwork and unwavering commitment to the American system of public education as a primary means for preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.
- j. To strive for transparency and effectively serve the role as an elected public official by voting on all action items up for consideration by the Board of Education, unless absent from the meeting where such action is taking place or there may be a potential conflict of interest. If there is a potential conflict of interest, including matters where a family member could benefit from such action, whether individually or collectively, the Board member shall make the conflict of interest known to the public and abstain from voting on said action item.

Adopted: June 13, 2005

Reviewed: July 10, 2006, June 9, 2008, June 8, 2009, June 14, 2010, June 13, 2011, Jan. 9, 2012,

Mar. 11, 2013, Mar. 10, 2014, Mar. 9, 2015, Mar. 14, 2016, Mar. 13, 2017, Apr. 9, 2018, June 10, 2019, April 13, 2020, April 12, 2021, April 11, 2022, April 10, 2023, April 8, 2024