

CAMBRIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

Policy 9271

Adopted: December 10, 2002

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BYLAWS OF THE BOARD

Code of Ethics

The position of a Trustee is one of public trust and responsibility. It is the Trustees' duty to rise above partisanship and to keep in mind that the Trustee represents at all times the entire community, and that the schools are being maintained for the benefit of the whole public and not for any group or portion of the community. The Trustee must at all times strive to build up and maintain public confidence in the Board, in the teachers, and in the work being done by the schools. The relations between Trustees, teachers, and the general public should be one of mutual frankness, confidence and sincerity.

As the public schools are the bulwark of American Democracy, the Board and the individual Trustees should use every endeavor to make it the most efficient instrument of social progress.

This code of ethics is recommended as a guide to the members of the Board as they strive to render effective and efficient service to the members of the community.

- I. A Board member should honor the high responsibility which his/her membership demands by thinking always in terms of "children first".
 - a. By accepting the responsibility along with his/her fellow Board members for seeing that the maximum of facilities and resources are provided for the proper functioning of schools.
 - b. By keeping party politics out of school affairs.
 - c. By representing at all times the entire school community.
 - d. By accepting the responsibility of becoming well informed concerning the duties of Board members, and the proper functions of public schools.
 - e. By recognizing responsibility as a State Official to seek the improvement of education throughout the State.
 - f. By recognizing the right of every child to a free and equal education.

- II. A school Board member should respect his/her relationships with other members of the Board:

- a. By recognizing that authority rests only with the Board in official meetings, and that the individual member has no legal status to bind the Board outside of such meetings, but that his/her statements and actions are attributed to his/her Board status.
- b. By accepting the responsibilities of identifying problems and proposing solutions.
- c. By his/her ability and willingness to take a position on a controversial issue.
- d. By recognizing the integrity of his/her predecessors and associates, and the merits of their work.
- e. By refusing to make statements or promises as to how he/she will vote on any matter which should properly come before the Board as a whole.
- f. By making decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
- g. By refusing to participate in irregular meetings such as "secret" or "star chamber" meetings, which are not official and which all members do not have the opportunity to attend.
- h. By recognizing that good communications are basic to his/her effective service.

III. A Board member should maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff:

- a. By striving to procure, when the vacancy exists, the best professional leader available for the Chief Administrative post.
- b. By giving the Superintendent full administrative authority for properly discharging his/her professional duties, and also by holding him/her responsible for acceptable results.
- c. By acting only upon the recommendations of the Superintendent in matters of employment or dismissal of school personnel.
- d. By having the Superintendent of his/her designee present at all meetings of the Board except when his/her contract and salary are under consideration.
- e. By referring all personal complaints to the Superintendent and by discussing them only at a regular meeting, or in executive session when appropriate, after failure of administrative solution.
- f. By presenting personal criticisms of any employee directly to the Superintendent.

- IV. A Board member should meet his/her responsibilities to his/her community:
- a. By attempting to appraise fairly both the present and future educational needs of the community.
 - b. By being accessible at public meetings and functions of the District.
 - c. By regarding it as a major responsibility of the Board to interpret the aims and the methods of the schools to the community.
 - d. By conducting all school business transactions honestly and fairly.
 - e. By vigorously seeking adequate financial support for the schools.
 - f. By refusing to use the position of Trustee in any way whatsoever for personal gains or personal prestige. A Board member should declare any conflict of interest on any part of a Board discussion or decision on any matter in which his/her action might be deemed a conflict of interest.
 - g. By refusing to initiate discussions of any business of the Board, properly discussed in executive session, in the home, on the street, or in the office.
 - h. By winning the community's confidence that all is being done in the best interests of the school children.
 - i. By adhering to the principles upon which you were elected.
- V. A Board member should maintain desirable relations with personnel:
- a. By recognizing that his or her decisions affect the material quality of the lives of the employees and their families.
 - b. By recognizing the necessity to provide an atmosphere conducive to good communications.