

Title: Board of Directors' Member Ethics

The Council Bluffs Community School District Board of Directors adopts the following Code of Ethics recommended by the Iowa Association of School Boards, and modifies it to guide its members in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

1. I will listen.
2. I will respect the opinions of others.
3. I will recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
4. I will be motivated only by an earnest desire to serve the School District and the children of my community in the best possible way.
5. I will not use the schools or any part of the school program for my own personal advantage or for the personal advantage of my friends or supporters.
6. I will vote for a closed session of the Board if the situation requires it, but I will consider secret sessions of Board members unethical.
7. I will recognize that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition which is to be considered is to close my mind and agree not to think through other facts and points of view which may be presented in the meeting.
8. In Board meetings, I will expect to spend more time on educational programs and procedures than on business details.
9. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board in legal session and not with individual members of the Board, except as authorized by law.
10. I will make no disparaging remarks about other members of the Board or their opinions.
11. In an effort to have all decisions made for the best interests of the children and the schools, I will frankly express my honest and thoughtful opinions in Board meetings.
12. I will insist that all members of the Board participate fully in Board action and recommend that when special committees are appointed, they serve only in an investigating and advisory capacity.
13. I will abide by majority decisions of the Board.
14. I will carefully consider petitions, resolutions and complaints and will act upon them in the best interests of the schools.

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15. I will not discuss the confidential business of the Board in public.
16. I will endeavor to keep informed on all local, state and national educational developments of significance so that I may become a better Board member.

IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY COMMUNITY:

1. I will consider myself a trustee of public education and will do my best to protect it, conserve it and advance it giving to the children of my community the educational facilities that are as complete and adequate as it is possible to provide.
2. I will consider it an important responsibility of the Board to interpret the aims, methods and attitudes of the schools to the community.
3. I will earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and do my best to translate them into the educational program of the schools.
4. I will attempt to procure adequate financial support for the schools.
5. I will represent the entire District rather than individual electors, patrons or groups.
6. I will not regard the schools as my own private property but as the property of the people.

IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF:

1. I will function in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine as part of a legislative policy-forming body, not as an administrative officer.
2. I will recognize that it is my responsibility, together with that of my fellow Board members, to see that the schools are properly run- not to run them myself.
3. I will expect the schools to be administered by competent, technical and professional people.
4. I will recognize the Superintendent as the executive officer of the Board.
5. I will work through the administrative employees of the Board, not over or around them.
6. I will expect the Superintendent to keep the Board adequately informed through oral and written reports.
7. I will vote to employ personnel only after the recommendation of the Superintendent has been received.
8. I will insist that contracts be equally binding on the teacher and the Board.
9. I will give the Superintendent power commensurate with his/her responsibility and will not in any way interfere with or seek to undermine his/her authority.

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10. I will give the Superintendent friendly counsel and advice.
11. I will present any personal criticism of employees to the Superintendent.
12. I will refer complaints to the proper administrative officer.

#### IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER SCHOOL BOARDS

1. I will not vote to employ a Superintendent, principal or teacher who is already under contract with another district without assurance from the proper authority that the person can be released from contract.
2. I will consider it unethical to bid for the services of a teacher or pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a neighboring board or superintendent.
3. I will not recommend an employee for a position in another district unless I would employ the individual under similar circumstances.
4. I will refer all inquiries about the standing and ability of an employee to the District's administration.
5. I will take advantage of opportunities to interact with board members of other districts for the purpose of discussing school issues.

Cross References:

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Legal References:

Iowa Association of School Boards; Iowa  
Code § 279.8, Chapter 21

Approved: Apr. 30, 1985

Reviewed: Feb. 20, 1996  
March 19, 2024

Revised: January 13, 2004  
August 25, 2009  
February 25, 2014  
August 26, 2014  
May 28, 2019