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School Board Member Ethics

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As a member of my local board, I will strive to improve public education, and to that end I will:

Attend all regularly schooled board meetings insofar as possible and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;

Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;

Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;

Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members, and seek systematic communications between the board and students, district staff, and all elements of the community;

Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;

Communicate to other board members and the superintendent expressions of public reaction to board policies and school programs;

Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards associations;

Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as district staff and insist on a regular impartial evaluation of all staff;

Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using my board position for personal or partisan gain;

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Take on private action that will compromise the board or the administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law; and

Remember always that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

Approved: