

SALEM SCHOOL SYSTEM
Salem, Connecticut

BY LAWS OF THE BOARD

CODE OF ETHICS

1. I will be an advocate of high quality free public education for all Connecticut children. In fulfilling my responsibilities, I will think of “children first”.
2. I will, as an agent of the state, uphold and enforce all laws, rules, regulations, and court orders pertaining to public schools. I will strive to bring any needed change only through legal and ethical procedures.
3. I will strive to help create public schools which meet the individual educational needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, physical condition, or social standing.
4. I will work to help my community understand the importance of support for public education, whether it be in providing adequate finances, optimum facilities, staffing and resources, or better educational programs for children.
5. I will join with my fellow Board of Education members, staff, community, and students in becoming fully informed about the nature, value and direction of contemporary education in our society. I will support needed change in our schools.
6. I will strive to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about our school, and I will try to interpret community goals to the school administration.
7. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to “run the schools” through administration; but together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run through effective policies.
8. I will attempt to confine my Board action policy-making, planning and appraisal, and will help to frame policies and plans after the Board has considered those who will be affected by it.
9. I will devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school Board member so that I may render effective and creditable service.
10. I will come to Board of Education meetings prepared and will arrive at conclusions only after discussing all aspects of the issue at hand with my fellow Board members in a meeting. I will respect the opinions of others, abide by the principle of majority-rule and will support decisions made by the Board of Education.

11. I will recognize that authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in a meeting, and will make no personal promises nor take any private action, which may compromise the Board.
12. I will acknowledge that the Board represents the entire school community, and will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interests or partisan political groups. I will never use my position on the Board to gain for myself, my friends or my family.
13. I will not publicly criticize and Board of Education member, teacher or administrator, but will communicate any criticisms directly and privately to the individual and will ask others who may communicate a criticism to me about someone else to do so directly and privately as well.
14. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to schools, which if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools.
15. I will strive to insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical.
16. I will strive to appoint the best trained technical and professional personnel available, upon recommendation by the appropriate administrative officer.
17. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. I will strive to ensure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities, but the necessary authority to perform effectively.
18. I will refer all complaints through the proper “chain of command” within the system, and will hear such complaints at public meetings pursuant to Policy #1312 (Public Complaints).

(cf. 1312 – Public Complaints)

Legal reference: “Connecticut Code of Ethics for Board of Education”, printed in Responsibilities of Board of Education Membership (revised June 1989)

1st Reading: March 26, 1996
Policy Adopted: April 9, 1996

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