

Policies

Westerly Public Schools Westerly School Committee Ethical Standards and Principles

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Westerly Public Schools establishes the following code of basic principles and ethical standards for School Committee members acting individually and collectively as a board of education in the management of the public schools of Westerly, Rhode Island.

- A. The Westerly School Committee accepts the obligation to operate the public schools in accordance with the fundamental principles and standards of school management, which principles include but are not limited to the following:
1. Formulate written policy for the administration of schools to be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary.
 2. Exercise legislative, policy-making, planning and appraising functions and delegate administrative functions in the operation of schools to the Superintendent of Schools.
 3. Recognize their critical responsibility for selecting the Superintendent, defining his or her responsibilities, and evaluating his or her performance regularly without directly engaging in administrative processes.
 4. Accept and encourage a variety of opinions from and communication with all parts of the community.
 5. Make public relevant institutional information in order to promote communication and understanding between the school system and the community.
 6. Act on legislative and policy-making matters only after examining pertinent facts and considering the Superintendent's recommendations.
 7. Conduct meetings in accordance with open meeting laws, with planned and published agendas.
 8. Encourage and promote professional growth of school staff so that quality of instruction and support services continually may be improved.
 9. Establish and maintain procedural steps for resolving complaints and criticisms of school affairs.
 10. Act only through public meetings since individual board members have no authority to bind the board.
 11. Recognize that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.
 12. Work with other committee members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent.

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13. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using the committee position for personal gain. To this extent, even the impression of impropriety must be avoided.
 14. Attend all regularly scheduled committee meetings as possible, as well as appropriate state and regional meetings, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
 15. Provide fiscal oversight to the Westerly Public Schools.
 16. Participation in the School Committee professional development and in annual School Committee self evaluations.
- B. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or interfere with the rights of teachers and other school employees to collectively bargain pursuant to Chapters 9.3 and 9.4 of Title 28 or to allow any School Committee or Superintendent to abrogate any agreement reached by collective bargaining.

Reference: Chapter 16-2-9.1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island.

Adopted: June 7, 2006
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