

POLICY TYPE: Governance Process
POLICY TITLE: 4.5 School Board Members' Code of Conduct

The School Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as School Board members.

- 4.5.1 Members will demonstrate loyalty to the owners, not conflicted by loyalties to staff, other organizations, or any personal interests as consumers.
- 4.5.2 Members will avoid conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility.
 - 4.5.2.1 There will be no self-dealing or business by a member with the district. Members will annually disclose their involvements with other organizations or with vendors and any associations that might be reasonably seen as representing a conflict of interest.
 - 4.5.2.2 When the School Board is to decide on an issue about which a member has an unavoidable conflict of interest, that member will absent herself or himself without comment not only from the vote but also from the deliberation.
 - 4.5.2.3 School Board members will not use their School Board position to obtain employment in the district for themselves, family members, or close associates. A School Board member who applies for employment will first resign from the School Board.
- 4.5.3 School Board members will not attempt to exercise individual authority over the school district or attempt to cause division between School Board members or the School Board and members of the district.
 - 4.5.3.1 Members' interaction with the Superintendent or with staff will recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly authorized by the School Board.

4.5.3.2 Members' interactions with the public, the press, or other entities will recognize the same limitation and the inability of any School Board member to speak for the School Board except to repeat explicitly stated School Board decisions.

4.5.4 Members will respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature.

4.5.5 Members will be prompt and attend all Board Business Meetings and Board Workshops, and all meetings of Board Committees and other outside assignments. Absences must be communicated to the Board Chair or Committee Chair at least seventy-two hours prior to the affected meeting. In the case of an unforeseen conflict, the Board Chair or Committee Chair must be notified as soon as possible.

4.5.6 Members will be properly prepared for School Board deliberation.

4.5.6.1 Members' use of electronic devices shall be restricted to the use of district issued technology during board business meetings and workshops. Brief incidental or unexpected and urgent situations do not constitute a violation of the restriction.

4.5.7 Members will support the legitimacy and authority of the final determination of the School Board on any matter, irrespective of the member's personal position on the issue.

4.5.8 For an effective School Board, School Board Members will attend a series of training courses that familiarize them with the operation of School Boards within the State of Minnesota as well as the Eden Prairie School District. School Board Member training will consist of the following:

4.5.8.1 Introduction to Policy Governance – School Board members will take this course as soon as possible upon election to the School Board and no later than six months from taking office. Course content to be determined by the Board Development Committee.

The following training sessions are conducted by the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA):

- 4.5.8.2 Phase I Orientation (New School Board Members) – School Board members will take this course as soon as possible upon election to the School Board and no later than six months from taking office.
- 4.5.8.3 Phase II Orientation (New School Board Members) – School Board members will take this course as soon as possible upon election to the School Board and no later than six months from taking office.
- 4.5.8.4 Phase III Orientation (Building a High-Performance School Board) – School Board members will take this course (or an alternate course of similar training as approved by the School Board Chair) within the first two years of taking office.
- 4.5.8.5 Phase IV Orientation (Community Engagement) – School Board members will take this course (or an alternate course of similar training as approved by the School Board Chair) within the first two years of taking office.
- 4.5.8.6 Officer Training – any School Board member elected to be an officer will attend this course within six months of election.
- 4.5.8.7 Annual Leadership Conference – each School Board member will attend this conference no less than once every three years.

A School Board Training Attendance Report will be maintained for compliance purposes.

Adopted: 10/23/2012

Revised: 10/22/2013; 02/25/2014; 03/24/2015; 04/28/2015, 11/19/2018; 10/26/2020