

# **RULES OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

## **BOARD RULE 3.02 CODE OF CONDUCT — BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

### **(1) STAFF RELATIONS**

(a) Each Board member is expected to make no attempt to exercise authority over the organization except through setting and following explicit written Board policies.

(b) While the Board expects the superintendent and staff to give individual members common courtesy, it does not require that the superintendent and staff heed any individual member's opinions or instructions.

(c) Individual members' interactions with the superintendent or staff must recognize that individual members have no authority over staff and no authority to insert themselves into staff operations except when explicitly authorized by the Board.

1. In their dealings with district staff, at all levels, Board members shall always strive to be humane, fair, and dignified.
2. No member of the Board can place himself or herself between staff members in their disputes or negotiations.
3. No member of the Board can attend or serve on staff committees or engage in solving staff problems.
4. No member of the Board may become directly involved in solving a parental or citizen complaint at the staff level. Board members will ensure that the superintendent is informed of the issue so that he or she may have appropriate staff members respond.

(d) Nothing contained in the preceding section (c) is intended to restrict or discourage normal and open communication among the governing board, staff, and community.

### **(2) CONDUCT IN MEETINGS**

(a) The Board will conduct meetings in accordance with the parliamentary procedures set forth in the latest revised edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, unless in conflict with the state statutes or the Board's rules.

(b) Board members will adhere to the standards of conduct set forth in the section of *Robert's Rules of Order* on Decorum in Debate (§43), including the following standards:

1. confining remarks to the merits of the pending question;
2. refraining from attacking a member's motives;
3. addressing all remarks through the chairperson;
4. avoiding the use of members' names;
5. refraining from speaking adversely on a prior action not pending;
6. refraining from speaking against one's own motion;
7. reading from reports, quotations, etc. only without objection or with permission;
8. yielding the floor during an interruption by the chairperson; and
9. refraining from disturbing the assembly.

(c) Board members will refrain from using an official meeting of the Board for any purpose other than the business stated in the call of the meeting. Prohibited activities include election-related campaigning on one's own behalf or on behalf of others, and activities outlined in the Board's Code of Ethics.

(d) The Chairperson will adhere to the rule against his/her participation in debate, and will relinquish the chair according to the Rules Governing Debate (§43) in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

(e) The Chairperson will use the powers of the chair to enforce this Code of Conduct.

(f) Board members have the right to request during a meeting that the Chairperson enforce this Code of Conduct and to seek further relief, including censure of the offending member, if the violation is not satisfactorily addressed at the time of its occurrence.

**(3) INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED MISCONDUCT**

The initiation of any investigation of alleged misconduct shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors.

**(4) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

All newly seated members shall be asked to sign a copy of this Code, indicating that they agree to adhere to its provisions.

**History:** Adopted 04-05-2005; Reaffirmed 03-24-22

**Cross Ref.:** Board Rule 3.01 Code of Ethics — Board of School Directors

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