

BA - School Board Ethics

School board members are to be:

1. Champions of the public schools and all students public schools educate.
2. Committed to high-quality education and student-focused initiatives for every student.
3. Honest and sincere, having the courage to present their convictions and meaningfully participate in board discussions.
4. Willing and capable of assuming board responsibilities, including, but not limited to, faithfully attending board meetings, participating on assigned committees, participating in board discussions and actions, and acting as a cohesive member of the board after final decisions are made.
5. Able to work cooperatively and in collaboration with board members and other stakeholders within the District and community in establishing strategic goals and plans for the District's mission and improvement.
6. Non-partisan in dealing with all school matters, because the Board does not wish in any way to subordinate the education of children and youth to any partisan principle, group interest, or personal ambition.
7. Willing to maintain confidentiality of privileged information.
8. Aware that the strength of the Board is as a board, not as individuals. (Individual board members have no authority or power to act on behalf of the Board; therefore, a board member should never make out-of-meeting commitments, take action on behalf of the Board without prior Board authorization, or act as a spokesperson for the Board unless designated as such.)
9. Informed concerning state and federal laws and regulations concerning education.
10. Faithful in attendance at board meetings, and diligent in preparation and study to become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
11. Willing to conduct school business in an open meeting when required to do so by law, even when the subject is controversial or personal.
12. Cognizant that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business must be left to the Superintendent and other designees responsible for the general day-to-day operation of the District
13. Eager to learn from association with other school board members around the state and nation, and open to personal development through reading publications of the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) and the North Dakota School Boards Association and attending seminars and conventions of these and similar organizations.
14. Willing to conduct school business in planning for effective school operations, while supporting the District's administration who implement and oversee the general operations and education programs according to the District's mission.
15. Vigilant against actual conflicts of interest and even the appearance of a conflict of interest. (Board members should become familiar with the laws governing conflicts of interests, contracts, and purchases as they relate to public board members, should carefully avoid any violation, and should utilize the Board's established procedures in determining if a conflict exists as identified in policy and regulations.)
16. Held to the highest standards of integrity in welcoming and promoting all aspects and viewpoints to support the success and advancement of the District's student-focused initiatives.

Complementing Policies:

- BA-BR1, Board Ethics Regulations
- BA-BR2, Board Member Internet and Social Media Use
- BAB, Board Conflict of Interest