Board Policy 1600: Code of Ethics for School Board Members

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2022 | Last Reviewed Date: 03/01/2022

As a member of my local Board of Trustees, I will strive to improve student achievement in public education, and to that end I will:

1. **Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, having read my packet ensuring that I am informed about the issues to be considered at the meeting;**
2. **Recognize that the Board must comply with the Open Meeting Law and only has authority to make decisions at official Board meetings;**
3. **Make all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;**
4. **Understand that the Board makes decisions as a team. Individual Board Members may not commit the Board to any action unless so authorized by official Board action;**
5. **Recognize that decisions are made by a majority vote and the outcome should be supported by all Board Members;**
6. **Acknowledge that policy decisions are a primary function of the Board and should be made after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings, recognizing that authority to administer policy rests with the Superintendent;**
7. **Be open, fair, and honest; have no hidden agendas; and respect the right of other Board Members to have opinions and ideas which differ from mine;**
8. **Recognize that the Superintendent is the Board's advisor and should be present at all meetings, except where the Superintendent is the subject matter, or where the Superintendent's presence is a conflict of interest. Further, the Superintendent shall not be present during any Board deliberation regarding a student expulsion hearing and/or when the Board deliberates regarding a teacher non-renewal or termination advanced by the administration;**
9. **Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office while refraining from communications that may create conditions of bias should a concern ever rise to the attention of the Board as a hearings panel;**
10. **Keep abreast of important developments in educational trends, research, and practices by individual study and through participation in programs providing such information;**
11. **Respect the right of the public to be informed about District decisions and school operations;**
12. **Understand that I will receive information that is confidential and cannot be shared;**
13. **Give staff the respect and consideration due skilled, professional employees and support the employment of those best qualified to serve as District staff, while insisting on regular and impartial**

evaluation of all staff;

14. **Present personal criticism of District operations to the Superintendent, not to District staff or to a Board meeting;**

15. **Refuse to use my Board position for personal or family gain or prestige. I will announce any conflicts of interest before Board action is taken; and**

16. **Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.**

Trustee Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Other References	Description
ISBA Policy Services	https://www.idsba.org/member-services/policy/