

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

No member of the Board of Education shall use his/her public position or office to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for the private benefit of him/herself, his/her immediate family or for an organization with which he/she is associated in violation of Wisconsin's "Ethical Standards for Public Officials." The District's legal counsel may be consulted for an advisory opinion regarding the propriety of any matter in which a Board member is or may become a party.

In the event any Board member, employee or citizen believes that this policy has been violated, it should be immediately reported to the Superintendent of Schools or Board President. After an initial investigation has been made by the Superintendent to determine whether or not a possible violation of this policy has occurred, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the Board member involved and, if appropriate, to the Board. The Board President shall be advised of the results of the investigation if a Board member is the subject of the investigation. This policy shall not be interpreted to limit the right of any Board member, employee or citizen to contact the appropriate civil authorities in the event a violation of state law is believed to have occurred.

In addition to the above, each Board member shall strive to improve public education, and to that end will:

1. Attend regularly scheduled Board meetings and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
2. Recognize that he/she should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings.
3. Render all decisions based on the available facts and his/her independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
4. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members, and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff and all elements of the community.
5. Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent.
6. Communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
7. Inform him/herself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the state and national school boards associations.
8. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
9. Avoid being put in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using his/her Board position for personal or partisan gain.

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10. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.
11. Remember always that his/her first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.
12. Strive to maintain harmonious working relationships with fellow Board of Education members by accepting majority decisions graciously, stifling personal interests, assisting others to work effectively, and using tact in areas of disagreement. Where disagreements occur, discussion of the opposing viewpoints should concern the issue rather than the individual.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 19.59 Wisconsin Statutes
946.10
946.12
946.13

APPROVED: June 1, 1981

REVISED: September 8, 1992
November 14, 1995
November 26, 2001