

Related Entries: (Not identified at this time)

School Board Member Code of Ethics and Boardsmanship

The Board and its individual members are committed to ethical and businesslike conduct, including proper use of authority and decorum consistent with maintaining the integrity and discipline of effective board leadership. To this end, the Board establishes the following standards for the conduct of its members in providing service on the School Board. These standards are expectations for Board Member conduct. The adoption of such standards is not intended to compel compliance.

(1) Board Meeting Conduct

- (a) Prepare for each meeting of the Board by reviewing agenda materials in advance of the meeting. Communicate directly with the Superintendent prior to meetings of the Board to address questions and/or concerns about agenda items.
- (b) Make every effort to attend all meetings of the Board. Advise the Superintendent or Board Office staff if unable to attend or arriving late.
- (c) Maintain the confidentiality of privileged information presented at closed meetings, in the best interests of students and the District.
- (d) Listen carefully and with courtesy when other people are speaking during board meetings.
- (e) Render all decisions based on an independent assessment of the information presented and consideration of the protection and advancement of the educational welfare of all students attending schools of the District.

(2) Community Conduct

- (a) Support the decisions of the Board after honoring the right of individual members to express opposing viewpoints and vote their convictions.
- (b) Recognize that individual Board Members have no authority to speak, give directives, or make decisions on behalf of the School Board, unless the Board grants such authority.
- (c) Attend all meeting of committees and Boards to which the member is appointed as the Board's representative. When unable to attend, make arrangements for another Board Member to attend in member's place.

(3) Conduct with Superintendent and Staff

- (a) Respect the authority of the Superintendent for administration and management of the schools and district operations. Refrain from directing school or District staff in the performance of their duties.
- (b) Board members shall refer individual personnel matters to the Superintendent.
- (c) Board Members shall refer individual student assignment or student discipline issues to the Superintendent.
- (d) Board Members shall refer individual procurement issues to the Superintendent.
- (e) In all matters referred by individual Board Members to the Superintendent, it is understood the Superintendent will provide notification of the status of such issue when appropriate.

(4) Boardmanship Conduct

- (a) Study educational issues relevant to the School District and participate in professional development training provided by Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and National School Boards Association (NSBA).
- (b) Participate in master board training as planned by the governance team.
- (c) Participate in professional development planned by the governance team to address conflict resolution, decision-making, supervision and evaluation, and other relevant subjects.
- (d) Keep personal concerns and differences with other Board Members from impacting the functioning of the Board.

(5) Ethical Conduct

- (a) Abide by the Code of Ethics for public officers and employees, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and all other state law proscribing ethical conduct of School Board Members.
- (b) Avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof.
- (c) Refrain from using the Board position for personal benefit or the benefit of family members or business associates.
- (d) Vote on all matters presented to the Board for action, except when a conflict of interest, as defined by statute, arises.

(6) Evaluation of Conduct

(a) The Board shall annually complete a self-assessment of its performance as a Board and compliance with the standards established.

(b) The Board shall annually establish priorities for Board professional development.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.42, 1001.43, F.S.

Adopted: 10/20/15