

Board Policy Document

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Series 200

Policy Title: Code of Ethics

Code Number: BR200.7

Board members' actions, verbal and nonverbal, reflect the attitude and the beliefs of the District. Therefore, Board members must conduct themselves professionally and in a manner fitting to their position.

Each Board member shall follow the Code of Ethics stated in this policy.

AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER:

1. I will listen.
2. I will respect the opinion of others.
3. I will whenever possible recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
4. I will be motivated only by an earnest desire to serve my District and the children of my District community in the best possible way.
5. I will not use the District or any part of the District program for my own personal advantage or for the advantage of my friends or supporters.
6. I will vote for a closed session of the Board if the situation requires it, but I will consider "star chamber" or "secret" sessions of Board members unethical.
7. I will recognize that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition which is to be considered is to close my mind and agree not to think through other facts and points of view which may be presented in the meeting.
8. I will expect, in Board meetings, to spend more time on education programs and procedures than on business details.
9. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board in legal session and not with individual members of the Board, except as authorized by law.
10. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board meeting, about other members of the Board or their opinions.
11. I will express my honest and most thoughtful opinions frankly in Board meetings in an effort to have decisions made for the best interests of the children and the education program.

First Adoption: September 9, 1997

Revision Adoption: May 28, 2002/August 11, 2008/July 20, 2009

Legal Reference: Iowa Code Chapter 21.6(3)(d); 68B; 69; 277.28; 279.7A, 279.8; 301.28 (2007)

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12. I will insist that the members of the Board participate fully in Board action and recommend that when special committees are appointed, they serve only in an investigative and advisory capacity.
13. I will abide by majority decisions of the Board.
14. I will carefully consider petitions, resolutions and complaints and will act in the best interests of the District.
15. Will not discuss the confidential business of the Board with those who have no legal right of access to that business.
16. I will endeavor to keep informed on local, state and national educational developments of significance so I may become a better Board member.

IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY:

1. I will consider myself a trustee of public education and will do my best to protect it, conserve it, and advance it, giving to the children of my District community the educational facilities that are as complete and adequate as it is possible to procure within the financial resources of the District.
2. I will consider it an important responsibility of the Board to interpret the aims, methods, and attitudes of the District to the community.
3. I will earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the District community and do my best to translate them into the education program of the District.
4. I will attempt to procure adequate financial support for the District.
5. I will represent the entire District rather than individual electors, patrons, or groups.
6. I will not regard District facilities as my own private property but as the property of the people.

IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SUPERINTENDENT AND EMPLOYEES:

1. I will function, in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine, as a part of a legislative, policy-forming body, not as an administrative officer.
2. I will recognize that it is my responsibility, together with that of my fellow Board members, to see the District is properly run and not to run it myself.
3. I will expect the District to be administered by the best-trained technical and professional people it is possible to procure within the financial resources of the District.
4. I will recognize the Superintendent as executive officer of the Board.
5. I will work through the administrative employees of the Board, not over or around them.
6. I will expect the Superintendent to keep the Board adequately informed through oral and written reports.
7. I will vote to employ employees only after the recommendation of the Superintendent has been received.
8. I will insist that contracts be equally binding on teachers and the Board.

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9. I will recognize and will not in any way interfere with, or seek to undermine, the Superintendent's authority.
10. I will give the Superintendent friendly counsel and advice.
11. I will present any personal criticism of employees to the Superintendent.
12. I will refer complaints to the proper administrative officer.

TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER SCHOOL BOARDS:

1. I will not employ a Superintendent, Principal or Teacher who is already under contract with another District without first securing assurance from the proper authority that the person can be released from contract.
2. I will consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass a neighboring board or its representatives.
3. I will not recommend an employee for a position in another school district unless I would employ the employee under similar circumstances.
4. I will answer all inquiries about the standing and ability of an employee to the best of my knowledge and judgment, with complete frankness.
5. I will associate myself with board members of other school districts for the purpose of discussing school district issues and cooperating in the improvement of the education program.

I have read and understand BR200.7 (Board of Education Code of Ethics), and agree to uphold the intent of this code. (This will be signed by November 1 of each year.)

Board Member Signature

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