

School Board Member Ethics

Having accepted the challenge of service on this School Board, I accept the principles set forth in the following code of ethics to guide me in helping to provide free public education to all the children of my school unit within the State of Maine.

- A. I will view service on the school board as an opportunity to serve my community because I believe public education is the best means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve our democratic way of life.
- B. I will base my decisions on how they will affect students and their education.
- C. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the board meetings, about other members of the board or their opinions.
- D. I will remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the board, and that I will conduct my relationship with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all media on the basis of this fact.
- E. I will seek to provide education for all children in the community.
- F. I will listen to citizens' complaints and refer them to the proper authorities.
- G. I will abide by a decision graciously once it has been made by the majority of the board. I reserve the right to express my opinion.
- H. I will not criticize employees publicly, but will inform the Superintendent of such criticism for investigation and action, if necessary.
- I. I will make decisions openly after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
- J. I will refuse to make promises as to how I will vote on a matter that should properly come before the board as a whole.
- K. I will not discuss the confidential business of the board outside of board meetings.
- L. I will confine my board action to policy making, fiscal oversight, planning, and appraisal, leaving the administration of the schools to the Superintendent.
- M. I will welcome and encourage cooperation and participation by teachers, administrators, and other personnel in developing policies that affect their welfare and that of the students they serve.

- N. I will endeavor at all times to see that schools have adequate financial support within the capabilities of the community and state, in order that every child may receive the best possible education.
- O. I will resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a school board member to benefit myself or any individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school district.
- P. I will endeavor to attend every regular and special board meeting recognizing that my presence means representation for my town or city. If I find that this is not possible for an extended length of time, I will give consideration to resigning from my position on the board.
- Q. I will recognize at all times that the school board of which I am a member is an agent of the state, and as such I will abide by the laws of the state and the regulations formulated by the State Board of Education, which is responsible for educational policies as determined by legislative acts.

Cross Reference: BBFA – Board Member Conflict of Interest

Approved: November 20, 2014