

**CODE OF ETHICS****BOARD RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNITY**

A Governing Board Member should honor the high responsibility which Board membership demands --

- **BY** thinking always in terms of “children first”.
- **BY** understanding that the basic function of the School Board Member is “policy making” and not “administrative,” and by accepting the responsibility of learning to intelligently discriminate between these two functions.
- **BY** accepting the responsibility along with fellow Board Members of seeing that the maximum facilities and resources are provided for the proper functioning of the schools.
- **BY** refusing to “play politics” in either the traditional partisan, or in any petty sense.
- **BY** representing at all times the entire school community.
- **BY** accepting the responsibility of becoming well informed concerning the duties of Board Members, and the proper functions of public schools.
- **BY** recognizing responsibility as a state official to seek the improvement of education throughout the state.

A Governing Board member should meet his/her responsibilities to the community --

- **BY** attempting to appraise fairly both the present and future educational needs of the community.
- **BY** regarding it as a major responsibility of the Board to interpret the aims and the methods of the schools to the community.
- **BY** insisting that all school business transactions be on an open, ethical, and above-board basis.
- **BY** vigorously seeking adequate financial support for the schools.
- **BY** refusing to use the position of Board Member in any way, whatsoever, for personal gain or for personal prestige.
- **BY** refusing to discuss personnel matters or any other confidential business of the Board outside of an official Board meeting.
- **BY** winning the community’s confidence that all is being done in the best interest of school children.

**BOARD RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER MEMBERS**

A Governing Board Member should respect relationships with other members of the Board --

- **BY** recognizing that authority rests only with the Board in official meetings, and that the

individual member has no legal status to bind the Board outside of such meetings.

- **BY** recognizing the integrity of his/her predecessors and associates, and the merit of their work.
- **BY** refusing to make statements or promises as to how the member will vote on any matter which should properly come before the Board as a whole.
- **BY** making decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
- **BY** respecting the opinion of others and by graciously conforming to the principle of majority rules.
- **BY** refusing to participate in meetings which are not official and which all members do not have the opportunity to attend.

#### **BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONSHIP**

A Governing Board Member should maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent of Schools and staff --

- **BY** striving to procure, when the vacancy exists, the best professional leader available for the head administrative post.
- **BY** giving the Superintendent full administrative authority for properly discharging the Superintendent's professional duties, and by also holding the Superintendent responsible for acceptable results.
- **BY** acting only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent in matters of employment or dismissal of school personnel.
- **BY** having the Superintendent present at all meetings of the Board except when the Superintendent's contract and salary are under consideration.
- **BY** referring all complaints to the proper administrative office and by discussing them only at a regular meeting after failure of administrative solution.
- **BY** striving to provide adequate safeguards around the Superintendent and other staff members to the end that they can live happily and comfortably in the community and discharge their educational functions on a thoroughly professional basis.
- **BY** presenting personal criticism of any employee directly to the Superintendent in accordance with sound principles of personnel policies and procedures.