

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MENOMONIE AREA

165

BOARD MEMBER ETHICAL STANDARDS

School board members, representing all the citizens of the district, should recognize that:

1. Fellow citizens have entrusted them with the educational development of the children and youth of this community.
2. The public expects the first and greatest concern to be in the best interests of each and every one of these young people without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
3. The future welfare of this community, of this state, and of the nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education provided in the public schools.
4. Board members must take the initiative in helping all the people of this community to have all the facts all the time about their schools, to the end that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, school staff and school facilities.
5. The authority of the board is legally derived from the state, which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the district and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.
6. Board members must never neglect the representative obligation to the community and their legal obligation to the state, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization, and that they possess a moral and civic obligation to the nation, which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States of America are kept free and strong.

In view of the foregoing considerations, it shall be the constant endeavor of board members to:

1. Devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a board member so that effective and creditable service may be rendered.
2. Work with fellow board members in the spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points of issue.
3. Base personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; to vote honest convictions in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the board.

4. Remember at all times that other than prescribed by state law or local policy, individual board members have no legal authority outside the meetings of the board and are to conduct relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.
5. Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a board member for personal benefit or to benefit any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the district.
6. Recognize that it is as important for the board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as it is to plan for the business of school operation.
7. Bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the board is to establish the policies by which the schools are administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of the school business shall be left to the employed district administrator and his/her professional and nonprofessional staff.
8. Welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations and the media of communication in the district with respect to establishing policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.
9. Avoid all conflicts of interest - both pecuniary and nonpecuniary.

LEGAL REF.: Section 19.59 Wisconsin Statutes

CROSS REF.: 161, Board Member Authority and Responsibility

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/s/John Sobota

Clerk