

Board of Education

Board Code of Ethics

The proper operation of democratic government, as pertaining to public school districts, requires that Board members be independent, impartial, and responsive to the people they serve; that government decisions and policy be made in the proper channels of the School District structure; that Board office not be used for personal gain or to advance the interests of family, relative or friends beyond that which is available to any other private party or taxpayer; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. To foster achievement of these tenets, the Board has established this policy (code of ethics) for Board members.

This policy is in addition to all laws of the United States and State of Illinois pertaining to the subject matter of this policy, including, but not limited to:

- a. The Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120-1 et seq.);
- b. The Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140-1 et seq.);
- c. Article 4A (Disclosure of Economic Interests) of the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act (5 ILCS 420/4A-101, et seq.)
- d. Article 33 (Official Misconduct) of the Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5/33-1 et seq.);
- e. The following section of The School Code (105 ILCS 5/1-1 et seq.):
 - i. 10-9 Interest of Board Members in contracts;
 - ii. 9-10 Candidates for Office - Nominating Petitions;
 - iii. 10-16 Organization of Board [as it pertains to meetings of the Board];
 - iv. 10-20.21 Contracts.

It is the duty of every Board member to be cognizant of such laws. To the extent any requirement of this policy is more onerous or more restrictive than what is otherwise required or permitted under any of such corresponding laws, such laws shall be controlling.

Conduct expected of Board members

- a. Every Board member is expected to comply with the following ethical standards of conduct, and when the Board is required to fill a Board vacancy by appointment, the Board shall consider, and recommend that those nominating persons for the office of Board member also consider, the ability and willingness of potential Board members to so comply.
- b. Every Board member is expected to represent all School District 28 constituents honestly and impartially and refuse to surrender his or her individual judgment to special interest or partisan political groups.
- c. Every Board member is expected to refrain from performing or participating in any official act or action where a conflict of interest is present, and refrain from taking actions, and prevent actions attributable to the Board member from being taken, which would create an appearance of impropriety as a result of special consideration, treatment or advantage being requested by or accorded to such Board member, family member, or other person solely by reason of his or her position as a Board member.
- d. Every Board member is expected to recognize that an individual Board member has no legal authority to obligate or commit the Board to take or not take any action or position on any matter, and that decisions of the Board can be made only by a vote by Board members at a duly convened Board meeting.

Interpretations

It is recognized that no written code of ethics of this nature can provide specifically for all possible contingencies. Any questions regarding the propriety of any transaction or the proper interpretation of this policy may be brought to the Board at any time.

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy),2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest),
2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban)

ADOPTED: August 31, 2004