

# **BOARD POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS**

## **POLICY TITLE: CODE OF ETHICS**

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Each member of the Board is an elected representative of the citizens of the entire District and therefore embraces the public's trust. The Board members' obligations, as a group, are both legal and ethical. Each member promises to carry out his/her duties with the very highest ethical conduct, and to carry out the Board's requirements under the applicable education code provisions of the State of Wisconsin and such other local, state, and federal laws as apply.

1. Board members must maintain unconflicted loyalty to the interests of the ownership. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other boards or staffs.
2. Board members must assure that all actions and decisions are done to better educate students since this is the primary reason for the District's existence.
3. Board members must understand that a positive student-instructor relationship and the student-centered types of activities that support instruction and the individual needs of the student, are critical.
4. Board members must be responsible for the balance of appropriate programs, services, facilities, resources, staffing, and financial support necessary to meet the needs of current students in such a manner that assures their success in meeting their educational and occupational goals.
5. Board members must accept the responsibility of becoming well informed of the major initiatives of the School District and being well informed of related state and national activities such that each board member is better able to make the necessary decisions that maintain and/or strengthen our commitment to students.

6. Board members must help create and sustain an atmosphere in which controversial issues or differing philosophical stances can be presented fairly and in which the dignity of each individual is maintained.
7. Board members must avoid any conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility.
8. Board members must maintain confidentiality of privileged information and refuse to use his/her position on the Board or any confidential information in any way for personal gain.
9. Board members must not use their positions to obtain employment by the School District or the furnishing of services or goods to the District for or by themselves, family members, friends, or associates.
10. Board members must recognize that each member is only one member of a team, and that all Board actions are taken as a group in such a manner that the best interests of the entire School District are advanced.
11. Board members' interaction with the District Administrator or the staff must recognize the lack of authority in any individual Board member or group of Board members except as noted in Board policies.
12. Board members' interaction with the public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the similar inability of any Board member or Board members to speak for the Board.
13. Board members will express no judgements of the District Administrator or staff performance except as that performance is assessed in accordance with explicit Board policies.

Board Policy I.K.

Adopted: 080601  
Reviewed: 121410  
Revised

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