

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

Having accepted the challenge of service on the Board, members accept the principles set forth in the following code of ethics to guide them in helping to provide free public education to all the children of RSU No. 5.

Each Board member shall:

- A. view service on the Board of Directors as an opportunity to serve their community, state, and nation because of the belief that public education is the best means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve our democratic way of life.
- B. at all times think of children first and base their decisions on how they will affect children, their education, and their training.
- C. make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board of Directors meetings, about other members of the Board or their opinions.
- D. remember at all times that as an individual they have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board of Directors, and that they will conduct their relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all media of communications on the basis of this fact.
- E. recognize that their responsibility is not to operate the schools but to see that they are well operated.
- F. seek to provide education for all children in the community commensurate with their needs and abilities.
- G. listen to all citizens but refer all complaints to the proper authorities, and discuss such complaints only at a regular meeting after failure of administrative solution.
- H. abide by a decision graciously once it has been made by the majority of the Board of Directors.
- I. not criticize employees publicly, but make such criticism to the Superintendent for investigation and action, if necessary.
- J. make decisions openly after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
- K. refuse to make promises as to how they will vote on a matter that should properly come before the Board of Directors as a whole.

- L. not discuss the confidential business of the Board of Directors at home, on the street, at work, or any location other than during a Board of Directors executive session.
- M. confine his/her Board of Directors action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, leaving the administration of the schools to the Superintendent.
- N. welcome and encourage cooperation and participation by teachers, administrators, and other personnel in developing policies that affect their welfare and that of the children they serve.
- O. 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.
- P. resist every temptation and outside pressure to use their position as a Board member to benefit themselves or any individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school unit.
- Q. endeavor to attend every regular and special Board of Directors meeting recognizing that their presence means representation for their town. If it is not possible for an extended length of time, give consideration to resigning from the position on the Board of Directors.
- R. recognize at all times that the Board of Directors of which they are a member is an agent of the state, and as such, shall abide by the laws of the state and the regulations formulated by the Maine Department of Education and by the State Board of Education.

The Board shall read this policy at the beginning of each school year and each member will sign the acknowledgement form. Any new members to the Board will read this policy and sign acknowledgement during Board orientation.

Cross Reference: BCA-E Board of Directors Member Code of Ethics Annual Acknowledgement Form

Adopted: October 28, 2009
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