

Bylaws of the Board

CODE OF ETHICS

This code of ethics expresses the personal ideals which the Governing Board believes should guide each school Board member's activities.

In all actions as a school Board member, the member's first commitment is to the well-being of our youth. His/her primary responsibility is to every student in the District.

Board members also have other major commitments to:

- The Community. Each Board member is responsible to all residents of the district and not solely to those who elected him/her; nor solely to any organization to which he/she may belong, or which may have supported his/her election.
- Individuals. Each Board member has a direct concern for every individual in the community. As an integral part of his/her duties, he/she represents the authority and responsibility of government. This authority must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.
- Employees. The Board member's actions may affect the capability of district employees to practice their trade or profession and should encourage their increasing competence and professional growth.
- Laws, Policies. Each Board member must be aware of, and comply with, the constitutions of State and Nation, the Education Code of the State of California, other laws pertaining to public education, and the established policies of the district.
- Decision making. Each Board member is obliged by law to participate in decisions pertaining to education in the district. As an elected representative of the people, the Board member can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.
- Individual Feelings and Philosophy. Every individual Board member has something to contribute to society.

Understanding and acting upon the foregoing premises, each Board member shall:

- Consider his/her position on the Board as a public trust and not use it for private advantage or personal gain.

CODE OF ETHICS (continued)

- Be constantly aware that he/she has no legal authority except when acting as a member of the Board. Board members shall present their concerns and concepts through the process of Board debate. If in the minority of any decision, they shall abide by and support the majority decision. When in the majority, they shall respect divergent opinions.
- Encourage ideas and opinions from the residents of the district and endeavor to incorporate community views into the deliberations and decisions of the Board.
- Devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions so as to be able to base decisions upon all available facts and vote in accordance with honest convictions, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
- Remember that the basic functions of the Board are to establish the policies by which district schools are administered and to select the Superintendent and staff who will implement those policies.
- Promote and participate actively in a concerted program of timely exchange of information with all district residents, parents, employees and students.
- Recognize that the deliberations of the Board in closed session may be released or discussed in public only with Board approval.
- Make use of opportunities to enlarge his/her potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops and training sessions made available by local, state and national agencies.

The following was approved at the Regular Board Meeting held on April 10, 2019 to be added on an interim basis until such time that two board members, working with staff, craft a proposed revision to Board Bylaw 9271 and it is approved by the Board of Trustees.

Resolution No. 19-09

Exhibit A

Adopt a Code of Ethics

I will be fair, just, and impartial in all decisions and actions.

I will accord others the respect I wish for myself.

I will encourage expressions of different opinions and listen with an open mind.

I will accurately represent district policies, programs, priorities, and progress.

CODE OF ETHICS (continued)

I will be accessible to the community and seek its involvement.

I will work to ensure prudent and accountable use of district resources.

I will always tell the truth.

I will share my views while working for consensus.

I will base my decisions on facts rather than suppositions, opinions, or public favor.

I will refuse to surrender my judgment to any individual or group at the expense of the district as a whole.

I will consider each issue on its own merits and not trade votes.

I will consistently uphold all applicable laws, rules, policies, and governance procedures.

I will respect the majority decision as the decision of the board.

I will not disclose information that is confidential by law.

I will prepare for and attend board meetings.

I will not involve myself in activities the board has delegated to the superintendent.

I will be continuously guided by what is best for all students of the district.

... and live them.

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