

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

POLICY STATEMENT

- A. Few public positions are more important than that of the School Board member. Tomorrow's citizens are largely the products of the public schools of today. Since the programs and policies of the schools are to a great extent determined by School Boards, it is apparent that the decisions of School Board members affect the lives of many people.
- B. The State Legislature created the local school district form of governance and empowered the local citizens elected by their peers to govern the operation of their schools. This body of local political education leaders, which is the School Board, determines and approves the curriculum; develops and approves the policies; hires the District Administrator; and generally sets the direction for the educational program.
- C. It is important the School District of New London's Board of Education assure the public that the conduct and the decisions are based upon a fair and equalized process. The Code of Ethics Procedure is developed to give guideline to the Board members as they perform their duties.

POLICY PROCEDURE

- A. With the foregoing statements in mind, each member of the School District of New London Board of Education will follow the Code of Ethics as listed below as they conduct and make decisions in the performance of their duties.
 - 1. Keep as his/her first and greatest concern, the best interest of all the children in the School District of New London without distinction to who they are, what their background may be.
 - 2. Transact all school business in an open, ethical, and above-board basis.
 - 3. Speak openly regarding his/her position on all matters of concern to the District at the Board meetings and support the decisions of the Board.
 - 4. Recognize that the strength of the Board is as a Board and not as individuals.
 - 5. Recognize that the function of the Board is one of policy making, not administration.
 - 6. Recognize that no Board member will interfere with the administration of the School District as an individual or undermine the administrative, teaching, secretarial, or custodial staff by reverting to political or coercive means to force ideas on the personnel of the School District.
 - 7. Require the District Administrator to keep the Board continuously and adequately informed concerning the school program, its problems--current and anticipated--so that the Board may operate within the policies, goals and objectives of the District.

8. Listen courteously to citizens with questions and complaints, referring them to the proper school personnel for settlement or information.
9. Recognize that he/she should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings.
10. Render all decisions based on the available facts and his/her independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
11. Inform himself/herself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the state and national School Board Association.
12. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using his/her Board position for personal or partisan gain.
13. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.
14. Remember always that his/her first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the School District of New London

LEGAL REFERENCE: Section 19.39 Wisconsin Statutes
Section 946.13 Wisconsin Statutes

CROSS-REFERENCE: