

SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS

Each school committee member shall support the SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS as adopted or revised by the Maine School Board Association, and shall be deemed to have taken this oath:

Having accepted the challenge of service on the school committee or board of directors, I accept the principles set forth in the following code of ethics to guide me in helping to provide free public education to all the children of the State of Maine.

- I will view service on a board of education as an opportunity to serve my community, state, and nation because I believe public education is the best means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve our democratic way of life.
- I will at all times think of children first and base my decisions on how they will affect the child, his/her education and training.
- I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the committee meetings, about other members of the committee or their opinions.
- I will remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the committee, and I will conduct my relationship with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all media of communications on the basis of this fact.
- I will recognize that my responsibility is not to operate the schools but to see that they are well operated.
- I will seek to provide education for all children in the community commensurate with their needs and abilities.
- I will listen to all citizens but will refer all complaints to the proper authorities and will discuss such complaints only at a regular meeting after failure of administrative solution.
- I will support graciously a decision, once it has been made by the majority of the committee.
- I will not criticize employees publicly, but will make such criticism to the superintendent for investigation and action if necessary. See GCOE to file a formal complaint.
- I will make decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
- I will refuse to make promises as to how I will vote on a matter, which should properly come before the committee as a whole.
- I will not discuss the confidential business of the committee in my home, on the street, or in my office, the place for such discussion being the school committee meeting.

- I will confine my committee action to policymaking, planning and appraisal, leaving the administration of the schools to the school superintendent.
- I will welcome and encourage cooperation and participation by teachers, administrators and other personnel in developing policies, which affect their welfare and that of the children they serve.
- I will 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.
- I will resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a school committee member to benefit myself or any other individual agency apart from the total interest of the school district.
- I will endeavor to attend every regular and special school committee meeting recognizing that my presence means representation for my community. If I find that this is not possible for an extended period of time, I will give consideration to resigning from my position on the committee.
- I will recognize at all times that the school committee of which I am a member is an agent of the State and as such I will abide by the laws of the State and regulations which are formulated by the State Board of Education which is the body responsible for educational policies as determined by legislative acts.

Adopted: 10/28/98

Reference: See BBAA - Committee Member Authority and Responsibility

