

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD

Code of Ethics

A code of ethics is an expression of those personal ideas which should guide an individual's daily activities.

In all my actions as a School Board Member, my first commitment is to the education and well-being of our students. My primary responsibility is to each student -- regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

I also have other major commitments to:

- The Community. I am responsible to all citizens of the District and not solely to those who elected me; nor to any organization of which I may be a member, or which may have supported my election.
- Individuals. I have a direct concern for every individual in the community. As an integral part of my duties, I represent the authority and responsibility of government. This represents the delegated authority of the majority and must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.
- Employees. My actions as a Board member may affect the capability of District employees to practice their trade or profession and should encourage their increasing competence and professional growth.
- Laws, Policies. I 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. It is my obligation, under the law, to participate in decisions pertaining to education in the District. As an elected representative of the people, I can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.
- Individual Feelings and Philosophy. Like every other individual, I have something to contribute to society.

Understanding and acting upon the foregoing premises, I shall:

- Consider my position as a Board member as a public trust and not use it for private advantage or personal gain.
- Be constantly aware that I have no legal authority except when I am acting as a member of the Board. I shall present my concerns and concepts through the process of Board debate and, if in the minority of any decision, I shall abide by and support the majority decision. When I am in the majority, I shall respect divergent opinions.

Code of Ethics (continued)

- Encourage ideas and opinions from the citizens of the District and endeavor to incorporate their views in the deliberations and decisions of the Board.
- Devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions to be able to base my decisions upon all available facts and vote my honest convictions unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
- Remember that the basic functions of the Board are to establish the policies by which the schools of the District are to be 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 citizens, parents, employees and students of the District.
- Recognize that the deliberations of the Board in closed session are not mine to release or discuss. They may be released or discussed in public only with the approval of the Board.
- Avail myself of opportunities for enlargement of my potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops and training sessions made available by local, state and national agencies.
- Approach all Board issues with an open mind, prepared to make the best decisions for everyone involved.
- Do nothing to violate the trust of those who elected me to the Board or of those we serve.
- Focus my efforts on the mission of the school or government body and not on my personal goals.
- Work in a spirit of harmony and cooperation despite differences of opinion that may arise.
- Recognize that administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business is the responsibility of the Superintendent of the Fullerton School District and his/her staff.

From Boardmanship, California School Boards Association, 1979, pages viii and ix.

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