

## Policy BCA - BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

The Board will adopt a code of ethics.

Upon taking the oath of office to serve as a member of the Board each member agrees to follow the code of ethics.

Having accepted the challenge of service on this Board, 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 West Bath School Administrative Unit.

- A. I will view service on the Board as an opportunity to serve my community, district, region, 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;
- B. I will at all times, think of children first and base my decisions on how they will affect children, their education, and their training;
- C. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board meetings, about other Board members or their opinions;
- D. I will remember at all times, that as an individual, I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and that I will conduct my relationship with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all media of communications on the basis of this fact;
- E. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to operate the schools but to see that they are well operated;
- F. I will seek to provide quality education for all children in the region commensurate with their needs and abilities;
- G. I will refer all complaints to the proper authorities, and will discuss such complaints only at a regular Board meeting after failure of an administrative solution;
- H. I will support a decision graciously once it has been made by the majority of the Board;
- I. I will not criticize employees publicly, but will make such criticism to the Superintendent for investigation and action, if necessary;
- J. I will make decisions openly after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed;
- K. I will refuse to make promises as to how I will vote on a matter that should come before the Board as a whole;
- L. I will not discuss the confidential business of the Board in my home, on the street, or in my office, the place for such discussion being the School Board meeting;
- M. I will confine my Board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, leaving the administration of the schools to the Superintendent;
- N. I will 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. I will endeavor at all times to see that schools have adequate financial support within the capabilities of the region and state, in order that every child may receive the best possible education;
- P. I will resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Board member to benefit myself or any individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school region;
- Q. A Board member should recuse himself/herself if there is a conflict of interest and they should not engage in discussion of that particular matter.

- R. All elected official Board members are expected to vote on all action items and abstain only under any extenuating circumstances;
- S. I will endeavor to attend every regular and special Board meeting recognizing that my presence means representation for my district and region. If I find that this is not possible for an extended length of time, I will give consideration to resigning from my position on the Board; and
- T. I will recognize at all times that the School Board 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 the regulations formulated by the State Board of Education, which is responsible for educational policies as determined by legislative acts.

**Cross Reference:**

BBBA - Board Member Qualifications

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