

Book	Policy Manual
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0144.2 - BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

A School Board member ~~should~~ shall honor the high responsibility which his/her membership demands by:

- A. thinking always in terms of "children first";
- B. understanding that the basic function of the ~~School~~ Board member is "policy-making" and not "administrative", and by accepting the responsibility of learning to discriminate intelligently between these two functions;
- C. accepting the responsibility along with his/her fellow Board members of seeing that the maximum of facilities and resources is provided for the proper functioning of schools;
- D. refusing to "play politics" in either the traditional partisan, or in any petty sense;
- E. representing at all times the entire school community;
- F. accepting the responsibility of becoming well informed concerning the duties of Board members, and the proper functions of public schools;
- G. recognizing responsibility as a State official to seek the improvement of education throughout the State.

A School Board member ~~should~~ shall respect his/her relationships with other members of the Board by:

- A. recognizing that authority rests only with the Board in official meetings, and that the individual member has no legal status to bind the Board outside of such meetings;
- B. recognizing the integrity of his/her predecessor and associates and the merit of their work;
- C. refusing to make statements or promises as to how s/he will vote on any matter which should properly come before the Board as a whole;
- D. making decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed;
- E. respecting the opinion of others and by graciously conforming to the principle of "majority rule";
- F. refusing to participate in meetings which are not official and which all members do not have the opportunity to attend;
- G. attempting to fairly appraise both the present and future educational needs of the community.

A ~~School~~ Board member ~~should~~ shall maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff by:

- A. striving to procure, when the vacancy exists, the best professional leader available for the head administrative post;
- B. giving the Superintendent full administrative authority for properly discharging his/her professional duties, and also by holding him/her responsible for acceptable results;
- C. acting upon the recommendation of the Superintendent in matters of employment or dismissal of school personnel;
- D. having the Superintendent present at all meetings of the Board except when his/her contract and salary are under consideration;
- E. referring all complaints to the proper administrative office and by discussing them only at a meeting after failure of administrative solution;
- F. striving to provide adequate safeguards around the Superintendent and other staff members to the end that they can live happily and comfortably in the community and discharge their educational functions on a thoroughly professional basis;
- G. presenting personal criticisms of any employee directly to the Superintendent.

A ~~School~~ Board member shall meet his/her responsibilities to his/her community by:

- A. attempting to appraise fairly both the present and future educational needs of the community;
- B. regarding it as a major responsibility of the Board to interpret the aims and the methods of the schools of the community;
- C. insisting that school business transactions be on an open, ethical, and above-board basis;
- D. vigorously seeking adequate financial support for the schools;
- E. refusing to use his/her position on a School Board in any way whatsoever for personal gain or personal prestige;
- F. refusing to discuss personnel matters or any other confidential business of the Board in his/her home, on the street, or in his/her office;
- G. winning the community's confidence that all is being done in the best interests of school children.

(Indiana School Boards Association)

A Board member shall maintain a safe and healthy environment for students by:

- j maintaining appropriate boundaries with students' personal space and personal life;
- i maintaining appropriate conduct with students, including, but not limited to, refraining from creating or participating in any situation or activity that could be considered abusive or sexually suggestive or involve harmful substances such as illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco;
- c refraining from transmitting any personally identifiable image of a student(s), including video, photographs, streaming video, etc. via email, text message, or through the use of social media and/or online networking media, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, MySpace, Skype, blogs, etc., unless such transmission has been made as part of a pre-approved curricular matter or co-curricular/extracurricular event or activity such as a school-sponsored publication or production in accordance with Policy 5722 - School-Sponsored Student Publications and Productions;
- f Policy 8330 - Student Records maintaining the confidentiality of students, in accordance with law (see Policy 8330 - Student Records and Policy 8350 - Confidentiality);
- i modeling and adhering to a high standard of conduct, including refraining from illegal activity.

Indiana School Board Association Code of Ethics

Cross References

Policy 5722 - SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

Policy 8330 - STUDENT RECORDS

Policy 8350 - CONFIDENTIALITY

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