

**Douglas County
School District 15**

Code: **BBF**
Adopted: 10/08/03
Readopted: 8/18/14
Orig. Code(s): BBF

Board Member Standards of Conduct

It is the intent of the Board to adopt a code of conduct to guide Board members in the management of the district.

A Board member should:

1. Understand that his/her basic function is “policy-making” and not “administrative”;
2. Discourage subcommittees of the Board which tend to nullify the Board’s policy-making responsibility;
3. Refuse to “play politics” in either the traditional partisan or in any other sense within the school organization;
4. Respect the right of school patrons and employees to be heard at official meetings, within the provisions of Board policy;
5. Recognize that authority rests with the Board only in official meetings;
6. Recognize that a Board member has no legal status to act for the Board outside official meetings, except as delegated by Board vote;
7. Refuse to participate in meetings which are not official and which all members do not have the opportunity to attend;
8. Refuse to make individual commitments on any matter which should properly come before the Board as a whole;
9. Make decisions only after all available facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed;
10. Respect the opinions of others and accept “majority rule” in Board decisions;
11. Recognize that the superintendent should have full administrative authority for properly discharging his/her professional duties within limits of established Board policy;
12. Act only after hearing at an official meeting the superintendent’s recommendation in matters of employment or dismissal of other school personnel;

13. Recognize that the superintendent is the educational advisor to the Board and should be present at all Board meetings except when his/her contract and salary are under consideration;
14. Refer all complaints or problems to the proper administrative office and discuss them at regular meetings only after failure of administrative solution;
15. Present personal criticisms of any school operation directly to the superintendent rather than to school personnel;
16. Insist that all school business transactions be on an ethical and above-board basis;
17. Refuse to use his/her position on the Board for personal gain or prestige;
18. Advocate honest and accurate evaluation of all past employees when such information is requested by another school district;
19. Give staff the respect and consideration due skilled professional personnel;
20. Use electronic communication judiciously in a manner that does not violate Oregon's Public Meetings Laws;
21. When using social media, Board members will treat and refer to other Board members, staff, students and members of the public with respect;
22. Never post confidential information about students, staff or district business on any web site or social media application.

A Board member shall Comply with all state and federal law.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 162.015 to -162.035](#)
[ORS 162.405 to -162.425](#)

[ORS 192.630](#)
[ORS 244.040](#)

[ORS 244.120](#)
[ORS 332.055](#)

Cross Reference(s):

BBFA - Board Member Ethics and Conflicts of Interest
GBI - Gifts and Solicitations