

Newberg School District 29J

Code: **BBF**
Adopted: 9/10/90
Readopted: 7/10/06, 4/26/10

Board Member Ethics

The Board adopts the following code of ethics for Board members. A Board member shall:

1. Understand that the basic function of a Board member 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 petty sense;
4. Respect the rights of school patrons to be heard at official meetings;
5. Recognize that individual members have no legal status to act for the Board outside of official meetings;
6. Refuse to participate in "secret" meetings or other irregular meetings that are not official and that all members do not have the opportunity to attend;
7. Refuse to make commitments on any matter which should properly come before the Board as a whole;
8. Make decisions only after all available facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed;
9. Respect the opinion of others and graciously accept the principle of "majority rule" in Board decisions;
10. Recognize the superintendent should have full administrative authority for properly discharging professional duties within limits of established Board policy;
11. Act only after hearing the recommendations of the superintendent in matters of employment or dismissal of school personnel at an official meeting;
12. Recognize that the superintendent is the educational advisor to the Board and should be present at all meetings of the Board except when the superintendent's contract and salary are under consideration;
13. Refer all complaints or problems to the proper administrative office and discuss them only at a regular meeting after failure of administrative solution;

14. Present personal criticisms of any school operation directly to the superintendent rather than to school personnel;
15. Insist that all school business transactions be on an ethical and above-board basis;
16. Refuse to use the position on a school Board in any way whatsoever for personal gain or for personal prestige;
17. Refuse to bring personal problems into Board considerations;
18. Advocate honest and accurate evaluation of all past employees when such information is requested by another district;
19. Give the staff the respect and consideration due skilled professional personnel;
20. Use social media Web sites judiciously in a manner that does not violate Oregon's Public Meetings Laws;
21. When using social media Web sites, Board members will treat and refer to other Board members, staff, students and the public with respect;
22. Never post confidential information about students, staff or district business on any Web sites.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 162.015 - 162.035](#)
[ORS 162.405 - 162.425](#)
[ORS 192.630](#)
[ORS 244.040](#)
[ORS 244.120](#)
[ORS 332.055](#)

Cross Reference(s):

BBFA - Board Member Conflicts of Interest