

Board Member Ethics

A Board member should:

- Understand that the Board sets the standards for the District through Board policy. Board Members do not manage the District on a day-to-day basis;
- Understand that the Board makes decisions as a team. Individual Board Members may not commit the Board to any action;
- Respect the right of other Board Members to have opinions and ideas which differ;
- Recognize that decisions are made by a majority vote and should be supported by all Board Members;
- Make decisions only after the facts are presented and discussed;
- Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office;
- Recognize that the Board must comply with the Public Meetings Law and only has authority to make decisions at official Board meetings;
- Insist that all Board and District business is ethical and honest;
- Be open, fair and honest – no hidden agendas;
- Understand that you will receive information that is confidential and cannot be shared;
- Recognize that the Superintendent is the Board's advisor and he or his designated representative should be present at all meetings, except when the Board is considering the Superintendent's evaluation, contract or salary;
- Take action only after hearing the Superintendent's recommendations;
- Refuse to use the position for personal or family gain or prestige. Announce any actual or potential conflicts of interest before Board action is taken;
- Refuse to bring personal or family problems into Board considerations;
- Give the staff the respect and consideration due skilled, professional employees;

- Present personal criticism of District operations to the Superintendent, not to District staff or to a Board meeting;
- Respect the right of the public to attend and be heard at Board meetings;
- Respect the right of the public to be informed about District decisions and school operations.
- Recognize that each Board Member must regularly attend most, if not all, Board meetings in order for the Board to maximize its potential in serving the needs of the district.

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](#)