

Port Orford-Langlois School District 2CJ

Code: **BBF**
Adopted: 9/1/87
Readopted: 6/8/046/8/04
Orig. Code(s): BBF

Board Member Ethics

Board members will treat with dignity and courtesy other Board members, the superintendent, staff and members of the public, and will provide an opportunity for all parties to be heard with due respect for their opinions.

Board members will recognize the superintendent as the executive officer to whom the Board has delegated administrative authority to establish regulations and oversee the implementation of Board policy.

A Board member has the right to express personal opinions. When expressing such opinions in public, the Board member should clearly identify the opinions as his/her own.

A Board member will respect the privacy rights of individuals when dealing with confidential information gained through association with the district.

A Board member should:

- Refuse to “play politics” in either the traditional partisan or in any other sense within the school organization;
- Respect the rights of school patrons and employees to be heard at official meetings, within the provisions of Board policy to do so;
- Recognize that authority rests with the Board only in official meetings;
- Recognize that he/she has no legal status to act for that Board outside of official meetings, except as delegated by vote of the Board;
- Refuse to participate in meetings which are not official and which all members do not have the opportunity to attend;
- Refuse to make individual commitments on any matter which should properly come before the Board as a whole;
- Make decisions only after all available facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed;
- Respect the opinions of others and accept “majority rule” in Board decisions;
- Recognize that the superintendent should have full administrative authority for properly discharging his/her professional duties within limits of established Board policy;

- Act only after hearing at an official meeting the superintendent's recommendation in matters of employment or dismissal of other school personnel;
- Recognize that the superintendent is the educational advisor to the Board and should be present at all meetings of the Board except when his/her contract and salary are under consideration;
- Refer all complaints or problems to the proper administrative office and discuss them at regular meetings only after failure of administrative solution;
- Present personal criticisms of any school operation directly to the superintendent rather than to district personnel;
- Insist that all district business transactions be on an ethical and above-board basis;
- Refuse to use his/her position on the Board in any way for personal gain or for personal prestige;
- Advocate honest and accurate evaluation of all past employees when such information is requested by another school district;
- Give staff the respect and consideration due skilled professional personnel;
- Use the privilege of abstention from voting only after a statement regarding the conflict that precludes a vote. As an abstention can function to forestall action by the Board, it must be used sparingly.

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](#)