

Board Member Standards of Conduct

Individual Board members and the Board as a public entity must comply with the Code of Ethics for public officials provided in state law.

Board members will treat other Board members, the superintendent, staff and the public with dignity and courtesy 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.

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.

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

A Board member will keep information discussed in executive session confidential.

A Board member should:

1. Recognize that authority rests with the Board only in official meetings;
2. Recognize that a Board member has no legal status to act for the Board outside official meetings, except as delegated by Board votes;
3. Refuse to make individual commitments on any matter which should properly come before the Board as a whole;
4. Respect the right of school patrons and employees to be heard at official meetings, within the provisions of Board policy;
5. Make decisions only after all available facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed;
6. Respect the opinions of others and accept “majority rule” in Board decisions;
7. Recognize that the superintendent should have full administrative authority for properly discharging his/her professional duties within limits of established Board policy;

8. Act only after hearing at an official meeting the superintendent's recommendation in matters of employment or dismissal of other school personnel;
9. 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;
10. Refer all complaints or problems to the proper administrative office and discuss them at regular meetings only after failure of administrative solution;
11. Present personal criticisms of any school operation directly to the superintendent rather than to school personnel;
12. Insist that all school business transactions be on an ethical basis;
13. Refuse to use his/her position on the Board for personal gain;
14. Advocate honest and accurate evaluation of all past employees when such information is requested by another school district;
15. Give staff the respect and consideration due skilled professional personnel.

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