

Union School District 5

Code: **BBF**
Adopted: 1/8/92
Revised/Readopted: 9/8/04
Orig. Code(s): BBF

Board Member Ethics

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.

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 personal.

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 right of school patrons and employees to be heard at official meetings, within the provisions of Board policy;
- Recognize that authority rests with the Board only in official meetings;
- Recognize that a Board member has no legal status to act for the Board outside official meetings, except as delegated by Board vote;
- 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 Board meetings 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 school personnel;
- Insist that all school business transactions be on an ethical and above-board basis;
- Refuse to use his/her position on the Board for personal gain or prestige;
- Advocate honest and accurate evaluation of all past employees when such information is requested by another potential employer;
- Give staff the respect and consideration due skilled professional personnel.

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](#)