

DODGELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Policy Manual

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CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

As representatives of all of the citizens in the DodgeLand School District, School Board members are responsible for serving the best interests of the community and its students, utilizing all available resources toward that end. The oath of office requires Board members to uphold the laws and Constitution of the United States and State of Wisconsin. In addition, Board members should:

1. Act only when in an official Board meeting, except as otherwise provided by law or directed by the Board.
2. Attend all meetings and be prepared to act on issues before the Board. They should contribute to discussions, while keeping an open mind during the deliberations. Once a Board decision is made, they should be willing to support and promote its implementation.
3. Abide by the ethical standards for local governmental officials as applicable and refrain from engaging in conduct that is inconsistent with other laws related to ethical behavior and conflicts of interest.
4. Remember that the responsibilities for overall management and control of the property and affairs of the District belong to the Board, while the responsibilities of the day-to-day operations of the school belong to the administration. Together, the Board and administration must work continually to identify the needs, goals, and priorities of the District.
5. Recognize that policy decisions are made only by the Board as a whole.
6. Be responsive to the public, maintaining open communication lines with citizens and informing them of the needs of the District, actions taken by the Board and accomplishments of district educational programs.
7. Render all decisions based on available facts and independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
8. Stay informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by state and national associations.
9. Consider the Board's role as the District's employer by making sure the district has qualified employees who will serve in the best interests of students and by providing for staff development and evaluation.
10. Always remember that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending school in the District.

CROSS REF: 150, Board Powers and Duties
 151, Board Policy Development
 161, Board Member Authority and Responsibilities

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