

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

Each Berlin School Board member shall comply with the following ethical provisions:
In order to fulfill its duty under state law to provide education to pupils within the District, the Board adopts the following expectations for each of its members.

AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY OATH OF OFFICE, I WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION BY STRIVING TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION BY STRIVING TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS:

1. Attend all regular scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, and be informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
2. Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings. Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies, and foster a relationship with the District administration toward the effective implementation of those policies and management of the District operations, personnel, and facilities.
3. Understand that the Board, as governing body, does not manage the District, but rather sets the broad goals and standards for the District by way of policies adopted by a quorum of the Board at proper meetings under the Right-to-Know law.
4. Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups. Make decisions and take votes based upon the available facts, the full deliberation of the Board, and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender or subordinate that judgement to any individual or special interest group.
5. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members. and Seek opportunities for the Board to establish systematic communication channels between the Board and with students, staff, and all elements of the community.
6. Work respectfully with other Board members to achieve the educational goals of the school district. by encouraging the free expression of differing opinions and ideas.
7. Communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent and to the Board (only as consistent with the Right-to-Know law) expressions of public reaction to Board policies, ~~and~~ school programs, and Board actions.
8. Be informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards associations.
9. Establish policies and protocols for systematic communications with students, staff, and members of the community. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.

10. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain. Recognize that individual Board members are without authority to act relative to School District business, and that I may not individually commit the Board to any action except as specifically designated to do so by Board action.
11. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration, and Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law or is received in confidence or executive non-public session.
12. Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office per applicable School Board policies.
13. Recognize that as a general principle the District and its students benefit when Board decisions, which have been made following consideration of all sides and vote of a quorum, receive the subsequent support of the whole Board, whenever practicable.
14. Present personal criticisms concerning District operations, staff, etc. to the Superintendent, not to District staff, the public, or unnecessarily at a Board meeting.
15. Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

Revised; First Reading: November 18, 2009
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