

### **Code of Ethics**

As members of a Kentucky Board of Education and mindful of the pledges made in their oath of office, Board members shall accept the duty to represent their community and their District's students, parents and staff and to improve public education by putting "students first" in their decisions. To that end they will:

1. Govern effectively and with integrity, emphasize student achievement and practice good stewardship of the District's human, financial and property resources;
2. Participate in all Board meetings, insofar as possible, having studied advance materials and, having given careful consideration to input from individuals and/or interested community groups, ready to base decisions on independent judgment;
3. Act as a staunch advocate for high quality schools, instructional curricula and professional staff dedicated to the educational welfare of all children, regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing and maintain knowledge about educational advances as they evolve;
4. Obey and uphold all laws, rules, regulations and court orders of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and of the United States, reserving the right to bring about needed changes through legal and ethical procedures;
5. Help their constituents to understand the importance of broad community support and involvement in the public schools, especially by encouraging citizen participation in Board meetings, and in turn, serve their constituents by helping ensure accountability of the schools to the community;
6. Recognize their duty to listen as well as to lead, respect opinions which differ from their own, reflect that no one member acts or speaks for the Board, and remember that final actions, made by majority vote in an official meeting, should be supported by all members;
7. Provide community insight to the Superintendent and evaluate the administration's responses to community expectations, work to adopt effective policies which give the administration authority commensurate to its responsibilities, demonstrate the support and respect due the District's skilled, professional employees and shun actions which could be interpreted as an attempt to run the schools through the administration;
8. Avoid even the appearance of conflicts of interest by never performing official acts or otherwise engaging in financial transactions with the school system which could benefit them, accepting gifts of substantial economic value which could be viewed as improper influence, or disclosing or using confidential information acquired in the course of official duties for personal gain.
9. Be responsible and respectful in their use of electronic communications and social media by: protecting confidential information received in their role as Board member, avoiding group texts or email chains which might violate public meetings laws, complying with record retention rules where applicable, avoiding communications and posts which negatively impact the reputation of the District or which interfere with or disrupt the educational mission of the District, and by clearly indicating the content is the member's personal view and is not on behalf of the District or Board collectively.

10. Avoid comments and questions during public meetings to teachers, administrators, and other staff members who present to the Board which give any appearance that the Board member is assessing or questioning the employee's job performance. These individuals are on the school board agenda to inform or to enhance board member understanding, not to be embarrassed, evaluated, or "raked over the coals." Employees' supervisors evaluate their job performance, not Board members.

Adopted/Amended: 3/15/2021

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