

### **Board Member Code of Ethics**

Having accepted the challenge of service on the RSU 40 Board, each Board member acknowledges the principles set forth in the following code of ethics to guide them in helping to provide free public education to all the children of RSU 40.

Each Board member will:

- A. View service on the Board as an opportunity to serve the community, state, and nation.
- B. At all times think of students first and base decisions on how those decisions will affect students, their education, and their training.
- C. Attempt not to make disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board meetings, about other members of the Board or their opinions.
- D. Always remember, that a Board member as an individual has no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board. Individual Board members exercise the authority and responsibility of their position only when the Board is in legal session. Board members will conduct relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all media based on this fact.
- E. Recognize that a Board member's responsibility is not to operate the schools but to see that they are well operated.
- F. Seek to provide a public education for all students in the community commensurate with their needs and abilities.
- G. Listen to all citizens but refer all complainants to the proper authorities, and will discuss such complaints only at a regular Board meeting after failure of administrative solution.
- H. Respect a decision once a majority of the Board has made it.
- I. Refrain from criticizing employees publicly; refer concerns to the Superintendent for investigation and action, if necessary.
- J. Make decisions openly after all available facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.

- K. Refuse to make promises to anyone on how the member will vote. Each Board member will vote based on available facts and their own personal judgment.
- L. Refrain from discussing the confidential business of the Board outside of a Board meeting.
- M. Confine Board action to policymaking, planning, and financial oversight, and leave the administration of the schools to the Superintendent.
- N. Welcome and encourage cooperation and participation by teachers, administrators, and other personnel in developing policies that affect their welfare and that of the students they serve.
- O. Endeavor always to see that schools have adequate financial support within the fiscal limitations of the community and state, in order that every student may receive the best possible education.
- P. Not use the position of a Board member to benefit any individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school district.
- Q. Endeavor to attend and be prepared for all regular and special Board meetings and assigned subcommittee meetings, recognizing that their presence is necessary for the efficient conduct of Board business.
- R. Always recognize that the Board is an agent of the state, and as such, will abide by the laws of the State and the regulations formulated by the Maine Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the federal government.

Adopted: December 21, 2006

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