

Code of Ethics for School Board Members

AS A MEMBER OF MY LOCAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND TO THAT END I WILL:

Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;

Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings;

Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;

Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members, and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff, and community;

Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration to the Superintendent;

Recognize and respect the responsibilities that properly are delegated to the Superintendent;

Communicate to the Superintendent expression of public reaction to Board policies, school programs, or staff;

Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the Montana School Boards Associations and the Montana Association of School Business Officials;

Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on regular and impartial evaluation of staff;

Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain;

Avoid compromising the Board or administration by inappropriate individual action or comments, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;

Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending public schools.

Adoption Date: January 20, 2000