

Technical Academies of Minnesota

Adopted: Orig. 6/22/2013

Revised: 8/25/2020, 9/27/22

209 CODE OF ETHICS

A code of ethics establishes standards of conduct that members of a school board create and agree to follow. The principles and values embodied in this code of ethics prioritize board members' obligations to students, the district, and the community. As a written set of expectations, a code of ethics guides board members' decision making and behavior. This model policy offers a starting point for school boards as they create a code that establishes parameters for board member conduct that best serve their district. Minnesota law and rules of parliamentary procedure establish sanctions that a school board may choose to pursue.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist the individual school board member in understanding his or her role as part of a school board and in recognizing the contribution that each member must make to develop an effective and responsible school board.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Each school board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

A. AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, I WILL:

1. Attend school board meetings.
2. Come to the meetings prepared for discussion of the agenda items.
3. Listen to the opinions and views of others (including, but not limited to, other school board members, administration, staff, students, and community members).
4. Vote my conscience after informed discussion, unless I abstain because a conflict of interest exists.
5. Support the decision of the school board, even if my position concerning the issue was different.
6. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and appreciate their work.

7. Be primarily motivated by a desire to provide the best possible education for the students of my school district.
8. Inform myself about the proper duties and functions of a school board member.

B. IN PERFORMING THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, I WILL:

1. Focus on education policy as much as possible.
2. Remember my responsibility is to set policy – not to implement policy.
3. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect, conserve, and advance its progress.
4. Recognize that my responsibility, exercised through the actions of the school board as a whole, is to see that the schools are properly run – not to run them myself.
5. Delegate the implementation of school board decisions to the proper site committee.

C. TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, I WILL:

1. Respect the rights of others to have and express opinions.
2. Recognize that authority rests with the school board in legal session – not with the individual members of the school board except as authorized by law.
3. Make no disparaging remarks, in or out of school board meetings, about other members of the school board or their opinions.
4. Keep an open mind about how I will vote on any proposition until the board has met and fully discussed the issue.
5. Make decisions by voting in school board meetings after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.
6. Insist that committees be appointed to serve only in an advisory capacity to the school board.

D. IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY COMMUNITY, I WILL:

1. Attempt to appraise and plan for both the present and future educational needs of the school district and community.
2. Attempt to obtain adequate financial support for the school district's programs.
3. Insist that business transactions of the school district be ethical and open.
4. Strive to uphold my responsibilities and accountability to the taxpayers in my school district.

E. IN WORKING WITH THE STAFF-LED STRUCTURE OF SCHOOLS, I WILL:

1. Hold the site committees responsible for the administration of the school district.
2. Give the site committees authority commensurate with their responsibilities.
3. Assure that the school district will be administered by the best professional personnel available.
4. Consider the recommendation of the site personnel committees in hiring all employees.
5. Participate in school board action after considering the recommendation of the site committees and only after the site committees have furnished adequate information supporting the recommendation.
6. Insist the site committees keep the school board adequately informed at all times.
7. Offer the site committees counsel and advice.
8. Refer all complaints to the proper site committee or insist that they be presented in writing to the whole school board for proper referral according to the chain of command.
10. Present any personal criticisms of employees to the site personnel committee.
11. Provide support for the employees of the school district so they may perform their proper functions on a professional level.

F. IN FULFILLING MY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, I WILL:

1. Comply with all federal, state, and local laws relating to my work as a school board member.
2. Comply with all school district policies as adopted by the school board.
3. Abide by all rules and regulations as promulgated by the Minnesota Department of Education and other state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over school districts.
4. Recognize that school district business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the school board.
5. Avoid conflicts of interest and refrain from using my school board position for personal gain.
6. Take no private action that will compromise the school board or administration.
7. Guard the confidentiality of information that is protected under applicable law.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 1 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (Boards of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendent)

Cross References: None

**Technical Academies of Minnesota
ISD #4217 Board Member Code of Ethics(206.5)**

As members of the School Board we recognize the integrity of our predecessors and associates and appreciate the merit of their work. We consider ourselves trustees of public education and do the best to protect, conserve and advance its progress. We are motivated by the desire to serve the pupils of our District and by the desire to provide the best educational opportunities possible for the entire District.

As a member of the School Board I will attempt to inform myself of the proper duties and functions of a School Board member. I will attempt to appraise both the present and future educational needs of the District and to obtain adequate financial support of the school program, I will interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and do my best to translate these into the educational program of the District. I will participate in activities that foster professional growth such as meetings, conferences, and workshops pertaining to District activities and objectives of the School Board.

As members of the School Board we meet the legal responsibility that is ours, functioning as a policy-forming body – not as administrative officers. Our responsibility is to have the District run properly, not to run it ourselves.

The individual members of the School Board hold an office of shared power and responsibility and recognize that District business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the School Board. Individual School Board members exercise authority over District affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal School Board meeting. As a School Board member, I recognize that to promise in advance of a meeting how I will vote on any proposition is to close my mind and agree not to think through points of view, which may be presented at the meeting. Each School Board member is committed to reaching and supporting group decisions, which represent the best judgments of the School Board as a whole. The School Board will make decisions in School Board meetings only after all sides of debatable questions have been represented.

As a member of the School Board I will listen, respect the rights of others to have and express opinions, and make no disparaging remarks, in or out of meetings, about other members of the School Board, or their opinions.

Chair Signature

Date

New Member Signature

Date