

## 165 CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Education of the School District of Slinger adopts the following Code of Ethics.

- I. A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO:
  - listen.
  - recognize the integrity of predecessors and present Board members and the merit of their work.
  - be motivated only by a desire to serve the educational needs of the children in the community.
  - work through the administrative employees of the Board—not over or around them.
  - recognize the fact that school business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting legally called.
  - attempt to keep informed in regard to the proper duties and functions of a school Board member.
  
- II. IN PERFORMING THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SHOULD:
  - deal in general educational policies, unless necessity requires otherwise.
  - function as a part of a policy-forming body—not as an administrative officer.
  - consider the position as that of a trustee of public education and do all possible to protect and conserve it and to advance its progress.
  - use discretion in publicly speaking out against Board decisions, recognizing that the forum for disagreement with a Board position is at the Board table.
  
- III. IN MAINTAINING DESIRABLE RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SHOULD:
  - respect the right of others to have and express opinions.
  - recognize the fact that authority rests with the Board in legal session—not with individual members of the Board except as authorized by law.
  - make no disparaging remarks, in or out of Board meetings, about other members of the Board or their opinions.
  - recognize the fact that to promise a vote in advance of a meeting on any proposition which is to be considered, is unethical.
  - make decisions in Board meetings only after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.
  - respect the law by avoiding sessions of the School Board held without the presence of the superintendent.
  - not discuss confidential business of the Board at home, outside of the School Board meeting.

IV. IN MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES TO COMMUNITY, A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SHOULD:

- attempt to appraise fairly both the present and the future educational needs of the community.
- interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and translate them into the educational program of the school.
- attempt to procure adequate financial support for the school.
- consider it an important responsibility of the Board to interpret the aims and methods of the school and its activities to the community.
- insist that business transactions of the school district be on an ethical, open, and above board basis. (Wis. Stats. 19.81)
- not use the School Board position to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for private benefit.
- not use the School Board position in a way that produces a substantial benefit – direct or indirect – for him/her, family members or an organization with which he/she is associated.

Reviewed, revised and approved by the Board of Education on June 18, 2007