

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.

Legal References:

Cross References:

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