

INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES

Board Member Ethics and Responsibilities

The Okemos Board of Education continually strives to improve public education. To that end, board members shall act responsibly and in an ethical manner that shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible;
- B. Become informed concerning the issues to be considered at board meetings;
- C. Endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly-held board meetings;
- D. Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment;
- E. Refuse to surrender independent judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
- F. Vote on all matters that come before the board unless prohibited by law, board policy, or by-law.
- G. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members and seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff, parents, and other elements of the community;
- H. Work with the other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the district to the superintendent of schools;
- I. Communicate, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, to other board members and the superintendent of schools expressions of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
- J. Become informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by state and national school board associations;
- K. Support the employment of those candidates best qualified to serve as school staff;
- L. Insist on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;

- M. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using the position of school board member for personal gain;
- N. A board member shall not use district confidential information, resources, or property for personal or financial gain nor solicit or accept a gift from a person doing business with the district or from any person that that would influence the manner in which a board member performs his/her duties.
- O. A board member shall not engage in a business transaction in which the board member may profit from his/her position through the use of confidential information which the board member has obtained in the course of his/her duties.
- P. Avoid employment or the rendition of services if that employment or service may impair his/her independence of judgment or action in the performance of his/her duties.
- Q. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;
- R. Remember always that the first and greatest concern must be for the educational welfare of the students attending Okemos schools;
- S. Develop and promote a board culture that reflects common purpose, mutual respect and focus on positive district outcomes;
- T. Maintain a board discipline that requires study of agenda materials prior to meetings, commitment to dialogue and addressing differences, and speaking publicly with one voice when decisions are made.
- U. Make every effort to respond to all community inquiries and concerns through a response protocol.

Reference:
MCL 15.342
Board Policy:
8110: General Powers and Responsibilities of the Board of Education
8250: Conflict of Interest

Policy
Adopted: 07-24-06
Amended: 06-23-14
Reviewed: