

## CODE OF ETHICS

This code of ethics expresses the guidelines which the Governing Board believes should direct each Board member's activities.

Board members have major commitments to:

- **The Students.** In all actions as a Board member, the member's first commitment is to the well-being of youth with primary responsibility to provide each student in the District with the highest quality education within the student's capacity to learn.
- **The Community.** Each Board member is responsible to all residents of the District and not solely to those who elected him/her; nor solely to any organization to which he/she may belong or which may have supported his/her election.
- **Individuals.** Each Board member has a direct concern for every individual in the community. The Board member represents the authority and responsibility of government. This authority must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.
- **Employees.** The Board member's actions may affect the capability of District employees to practice their trade or profession. Employees should be encouraged to increase their competence and professional growth.
- **Laws and Policies.** Each Board member must be aware of, and comply with, the constitutions of the state and nation, the Education Code of the State of California, other laws pertaining to public education, and the established policies of the District.
- **Decision-making.** Each Board member is obliged by law to participate in decisions pertaining to education in the District. As an elected representative of the people, the Board member can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.
- **Individual Feelings and Philosophy.** Each individual Board member has something to contribute based on his/her own experiences and shall be encouraged to present whatever information may be important to the current issues. Once voted upon by the entire Board, each Board member shall abide by that decision.

Understanding and acting upon the foregoing premises, each Board member shall:

- Consider his/her position on the Board as a public trust and not use it for private advantage or personal gain.
- Be constantly aware that he/she has no legal authority except when acting as a member of the Board. Board members shall present their concerns and concepts through the process of Board debate. If in the minority of any decision, they shall abide by and support the majority decision. When in the majority, they shall respect divergent opinions.
- Remember that the basic functions of the Board are to establish the policies by which District schools are administered and to select the Superintendent and staff who will implement those policies.

- Devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions, so as to be able to base decisions upon all available facts and vote in accordance with honest convictions, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
- Promote and participate actively in a concerted program of timely exchange of information with all District residents, parents, employees and students.
- Recognize that no person may disclose confidential information that has been acquired by being present in an authorized closed session to unauthorized persons, unless the legislative body formally authorizes disclosure of confidential information. “Confidential information” means a communication made in a closed session that is specifically related to the basis for the legislative body of a local agency to meet lawfully in closed session. (Section 54963(a) of the California Brown Act)
- Make use of opportunities to enlarge his/her potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops and training sessions made available by local, state and national agencies.

Legal Reference:

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act

ADOPTED: 7/12/95

REVIEWED AND REAFFIRMED 5/4/2016

REVISED 1/15/2020