

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

Having accepted the challenge of service on the Board of Maine Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, I accept the principles set forth in the following code of ethics to guide me in helping to provide free public education to all the children of the State of Maine.

- A. I will view service to the School Board as an opportunity to serve my community, state, and nation because I believe public education is an important means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve our democratic way of life.
- B. I will, at all times, think of children/youth first and base my decisions on how they will affect children/youth, their education, and their training.
- C. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board meetings, about other members of the Board or their opinions.
- D. I will remember at all times that, as an individual, I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and that I will conduct my relationship with the school staff, the citizenry, and communications media on the basis of this fact.
- E. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to operate the school but to see that it is well operated.
- F. I will seek to provide education for all Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in Maine commensurate with their needs and abilities.
- G. I will listen to all citizens but will refer all complaints to the proper authorities, and I will discuss such complaints only at a regular meeting after failure of administrative solution.
- H. I will support a decision graciously once it has been made by a majority of the Board.
- I. I will not criticize employees publicly, but I will take such criticism known to the Executive Director for investigation and action, if necessary.
- J. I will make decisions openly after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
- K. I will refuse to make promises as to how I will vote on a matter that should properly come before the whole Board.
- L. I will not discuss the confidential business of the Board in my home, on the street, or in my workplace. The place for such discussion is in the School Board meeting.

- M. I will confine my Board action to policymaking, planning, and appraisal, leaving the administration of the school to the Executive Director.
- N. I will welcome and encourage cooperation and participation by teachers, administrators, and other personnel in developing policies that affect their welfare and that of the children they serve.
- O. I will endeavor, at all times, to see that the school has adequate financial support within the capabilities of the state, in order that every child may receive the best possible education.
- P. I will recognize, at all times, that as a member of the School Board, appointed by the Governor, I am an agent of the state. I will abide by the laws of the State of Maine and regulations that are formulated by the State Department of Education.
- Q. I will pursue appropriate measures to correct those laws, policies, and regulations that are not consistent with sound educational goals.

Adopted: December 2, 2004

Edited for school name/administrator title: January 2014