



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

660 West Daley Street

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Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

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Phone: 608-588-2551

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Board Member Code of Ethics

The intent of this policy is to provide guidelines for ethical relationships which are essential to the successful operation of the educational system. This Code of Ethics presumes a relationship between the Board of Education, administrators, and community which promotes trust, open and honest communication, credibility and educational purpose.

- a. As representatives of all the citizens of the River Valley School District, Board of Education members are responsible for serving the best interests of the community and its students.
- b. The oath of office requires Board of Education members to uphold the laws and Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin.
- c. Board of Education members shall adhere to any ethical standards required by law including, but not limited to, laws prohibiting conflicts of interest, laws prohibiting the dissemination of privileged or confidential information, laws governing the holding of open meetings, and the circumstances under which action may be taken by the board and laws governing elections and campaign finance.

Board of Education members should:

- d. The Board recognizes that the authority to act rests with the entire Board of Education and that business shall be transacted only in official meetings.
- e. Attend all meetings and be prepared at those meetings to act on issues before the Board. They should be prepared to contribute to the discussion, while keeping an open mind during the deliberations; respect the right of others to have and express opinions; treat school personnel and the citizenry fairly and ethically; make decisions at Board meetings after all the facts have been presented; and, try to assure democratic processes for all groups.
- f. The Board consults with the District Administrator to acquire essential data and information before developing policy or making decisions.
- g. Remember that they are serving as locally elected officials under the direction of state and federal laws. As such, they may communicate with state and federal legislators concerning the problems and needs associated with providing a quality education.
- h. Board members shall respect all confidential information received and refrain from disclosing opinions expressed in confidence by other Board members and administrators and information shared during closed session deliberations.
- i. Keep informed regarding Board member duties and functions by taking advantage of inservice opportunities.

- j. Be responsive to the public by maintaining open communication lines with citizens in the community, and by keeping them informed about the educational needs of the district as well as the actions of the Board and accomplishments of the district's educational program.
- k. Strive to maintain harmonious working relationships with fellow Board members by accepting majority decisions graciously, stifling personal interests, assisting others to work effectively, and using tact in areas of disagreement.
- l. Communicate information from citizens of the community which a board member deems sufficiently important to consider in reaching his or her own decisions on matters at issue before the board, the information to other board members and the district administrator for dissemination to the other board members as soon as possible after receipt of such information.
- m. When vested interests or conflict of interests arise on any issue, the involved Board member shall refrain from all related deliberations and decisions, and from influencing the decision of other Board members on such issues.
- n. A Board member does not use the Board position as a means of self-aggrandizement or for promoting other political aspirations.

LEGAL REF: Sections 19.42 Wisconsin Statutes
 19.59
 946.10
 946.12
 946.13

APPROVED: February 9, 1989
REVISED: December 12, 1996
APPROVED: January 9, 1997
REVISED: June 8, 2017
APPROVED: July 13, 2017