

School Board

Board Member Oath and Conduct

Board Member Oath

Each School Board member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Keeneyville Elementary School District 20, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further affirm that:

- I shall respect taxpayer interest by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;
- I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;
- I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting; and
- I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.

The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

Board Member Code of Conduct

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum.

Accordingly:

1. Board members must represent the interests of the organization. This accountability supercedes any conflicting loyalty to other advocacy or interest groups and membership on other boards or staff.
2. Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in Board policies.
 - a. Members' interaction with the superintendent or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly authorized by the Board.

- b. Members' interaction with the public, press, or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the ability of any Board member to speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions.
 - c. Members will not publicly make or express individual judgments regarding superintendent or staff performance. Only the Board, meeting in executive session, as appropriate, will make any such judgments of superintendent performance.
3. Board members must maintain the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature, especially those discussed in executive session.
 4. Board members shall abide by the majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
 5. Board members shall encourage and respect the free expression of fellow Board members and those who appear before the Board.

CROSS REF.: 1.30

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