

## Duties of the Board

The president, or in his or her absence the vice president, shall preside at all meetings of the board, preserve order and decorum and decide all points of order, subject to an appeal by the board. He or she shall be entitled to vote on all questions.

In the absence of both the president and vice president, a president pro tempore shall be elected who shall in such cases perform all the duties of the president.

## *Scheduled Citizen's Requests*

“Delegations are permitted to address the Board at all regular Board meetings. No delegations shall be permitted during special meetings, unless the Board votes to suspend the rules to allow delegations. The delegate shall be allowed a maximum of (5) minutes of uninterrupted time to make his/her presentation. The oral presentation shall be accompanied by written copies for distribution to the Board members and Superintendent. The delegate shall present his/her views, concerns, suggestions and recommendations in an objective manner, free of profanity and obscenity. The character, reputation or good name of an individual shall not be discussed in an open Board meeting.” Any delegate violating this section of the procedure shall subject himself/herself to the possibility of personal liability for same.

## ETHICS

The board adopts the following statement of ethics to guide members:

As a member of the Board of School Commissioners, representing all the citizens of my school district, I recognize the following:

- A. My fellow citizens have entrusted me with the educational development of the children and youth of this community.
- B. The public expects my first and greatest concern to be in the best interest of each and every one of these young people without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
- C. The future welfare of this community, of this state, and of the nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.

D. My fellow board members and I must take the initiative in helping all the people of this community to have all of the facts all of the time about their schools, to the end that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, school staff, and school facilities.

E. Legally the authority of the board is derived from the state which ultimately controls the organization and operations of the school system and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the board and the people of this community for the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.

F. I must neither neglect my personal obligation to the community and my legal obligation to the state, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization; but that, beyond these, I have a moral and civic obligation to the nation which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States of America are kept free and strong.  
strong.

In view of the foregoing consideration, my constant endeavor shall be the following:

- A. I shall devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities as a school board member so that I may render effective and creditable service.
  
- B. I shall work with my fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of difference of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points at issue.
  
- C. I shall base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; to vote my honest conviction in every case, not swayed by partisan bias of any kind; therefore to abide by and to uphold the final majority decision of the board.

D. I shall remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the board, and to conduct my relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.

E. I shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a school board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school system.

F. I shall recognize that it is as important for the board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as it is to plan for the business of school operation.

G. I shall bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the employed superintendent of schools and his or her professional and nonprofessional staff.

H. I shall welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, or organizations and the media of communication in the district with respect to established policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.

I. I shall support my state and national school boards associations.

J. Finally, I shall strive step by step toward ideal conditions for most effective school board service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.