

1020 BOARD MEMBER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES/CODE OF ETHICS 1020

A member of the Board shall endeavor to attend all meetings, discuss items presented on the agenda, and vote upon motions and resolutions presented.

Official decisions of the Board can be arrived at only at duly constituted Board meetings. An individual Board member or groups of Board members do not have independent authority to speak for the Board and should make no out-of-meeting commitments unless directed to do so by the Board.

It is important that a Board member be nonpartisan in dealing with school matters and that he not subordinate the education of children and youth to any partisan principle, group, interest, or personal ambition.

1020.1 Board Member Code of Ethics

The following considerations will guide each board member in the performance of his or her official duties:

1. the need to obey all applicable state and federal laws regarding official actions taken as a board member;
2. the need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member's office;
3. the need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board's and board member's official duties;
4. the need to perform faithfully the duties of the office; and
5. the need to conduct the affairs of the board in an open and public manner, complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records.

1020.2 Additional Responsibilities

In addition to the foregoing, a Board member should carry out the following responsibilities:

1. should be prepared and willing to devote sufficient time to the study of the problems of education in the system as a whole, as well as those of the state and nation at large, so as to be able to interpret them to the electorate of the school system;
2. must be willing and able to make sacrifices of his time, knowledge, and personal pleasure for the benefit of the school system;

3. should report routine complaints and concerns related to system operations directly to the Superintendent for appropriate investigation and response;
4. should have no business or pecuniary interest which will conflict with the activities of the Board;
5. must annually meet the training requirements established by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-50 (12 hours annually), and should be familiar with the North Carolina public school laws, regulations of the State Board of Education, and the Pamlico County Public School System's policies and procedures;
6. must vote and act impartially in Board meetings, for the good of the school system;
7. should accept the will of the majority vote in all cases and give support to the resulting decision;
8. should represent the Board and the Pamlico County Public Schools to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support; and
9. should advocate for the resources necessary for the highest quality school program.

Legal Reference: G.S. 115C-37, -40; -50, 14-234 through -237; 160A-83
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