

### **Standards for School Board Members**

A School Board member shall have faith in public education, shall accept a place on the Board as a public trust of the highest order, and be certain to represent all of the children of the community, not any particular segment or group.

A School Board member has an obligation to protect the schools against any person or special interest group that would weaken them. Therefore, the member must show courage in thoughts and actions to safeguard good schools for all children.

A Board member must be open-minded, rely on facts, and not be swayed by personal bias or vested interests and respectful of the ideas, suggestions and criticisms of other people.

A Board member must be willing to devote substantial amounts of time to learn more about the schools in the District, the schools and educational problems of the State and American education in general. Time should be set aside to attend county, regional, state and national meetings of other school boards in order to be more knowledgeable in solving the many problems facing the District.

A School Board member must safeguard the confidential matters of the District as mandated by law and the ethics required when one person represents many others, particularly when under pressure by the many special interests of a community.

Finally, the School Board member must serve the people with dignity, honor and objectivity and discharge this public trust with humility.

Adopted: May 8, 1967  
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The Dubuque Community School District Board of Education is committed to ensuring the public, staff and students that School Board members will be consistent, reliable, principled, and fair in the governance of the District. In accordance with this belief, each Board member commits to following the Code of Ethics.

Board members will:

- Listen and respect the opinion of others.
- Be motivated only by an earnest desire to serve the School District as a whole and the community's students in the best possible way.
- Recognize that authority rests with the Board in legal session and not with individual members of the Board, except where authorized by law.
- Abide by majority decisions of the Board.
- Expect, in Board meetings, to focus time on providing the best possible learning for district students.
- Remain open-minded and objectively listen to facts presented at the Board table prior to voting.
- Recognize their responsibility is governance and not management.
- Abide by all policies adopted by the Board, including the chain of command and meeting procedures.
- Recognize the superintendent as executive officer of the Board and empower him/her to administer the educational program and student learning.
- Provide oversight for the financial stability of the District balanced with the need for an effective educational program.
- Respect confidentiality.
- Be trustees of public education and do their best to protect it, conserve it, and advance it.
- Abide by the oath of office, federal law, and state law.
- Recognize the integrity of their predecessors and recognize the merit of their work.
- Commit to their own learning and endeavor to keep informed on local, state, and national educational developments of significance.
- Express honest and thoughtful opinions in Board meetings in an effort to have decisions made for the best interests of the children and educational program.
- Make no disparaging remarks in or out of the Board meetings about other members of the Board or their opinions.