

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JOHNSON CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY	POLICY: 161
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School Board Member Authority and Ethics

BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

Individual Board members exercise their authority over the district affairs only when voting to take action at a legal meeting of the Board.

In other instances an individual Board member, including the Chairman or President, shall have power only when the Board by vote has delegated authority to him or her or when specifically authorized by law (see Policy 150). It shall be the policy of the Board to make its members, district staff, and the public aware that only the Board has authority to take official action, although it may, in specific instances, delegate that authority to the District Administrator.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

As representatives of the citizens of the district, Board members are responsible for serving the best interests of the community and its students utilizing all available resources toward that end. The oath of office requires Board members to uphold the laws and constitutions toward that end.

The oath of office requires Board members to uphold the laws and constitutions of the United States and State of Wisconsin, but in addition to that, they shall keep in mind that:

1. Board members can act only at an official Board session, except as officers they may take actions necessary to fulfill their duties.
2. They should attend all meetings and be prepared for 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. Once the decision is made they should be willing to support and promote its implementation.
3. Board members must avoid all conflicts of interest both pecuniary and non-pecuniary.
4. Board members must remember that responsibilities for the overall management and control of school property and its affairs including the development of policies belong to the School Board. The responsibilities for the day-to-day operations of the school belong to the administration. Together the School Board and administration must work to continually identify the needs, goals, and priorities of the district.
5. Board members must be responsive to the public maintaining open communication lines with fellow citizens in the community informing them on the educational needs of the district as well as on action of the Board's accomplishments of the district's educational program.
6. Board members are local elected officials and must work under state and federal laws. They communicate with state and federal legislators concerning the problems and needs involved with providing a quality education in our local district.
7. Board members must consider the School Board's role as the district's employer making sure the district has able and well-qualified employees who will serve in the best interest of the students.

8. Board members will not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in its educational program or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, national origins, sex, religion or handicap.
9. Board members will attempt to confine their Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal and will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted with those who will be affected by its actions.
10. Board members will hold confidential all matters pertaining to schools which if disclosed might needlessly injure individuals or the schools.
11. Board members will insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical.
12. Board members will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. They will strive to insure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities but also the necessary authority to perform effectively.
13. The complaints addressed to Board members will be referred to the District Administrator prior to placing the unresolved issue on the agenda of an official Board meeting.

Adopted: 8/20/07
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