

Series 0000

0050(a)

Code of Ethics

It is the policy of the Eastford Board of Education that a member of the Board will:

1. adhere to all Board policies, rules and regulations;
2. conduct himself or herself in a fair and impartial manner;
3. refrain from interfering with the implementation of a Board policy decision by the administration;
4. refrain from interfering with the duties of any school district official; and
5. refrain from divulging to anyone any aspect of matters considered and discussed in executive session.

These ethical obligations of Eastford Board of Education members are set forth in more detail below. As a member of the Eastford Board of Education:

1. I will be an advocate of high quality free public education for all Connecticut children. In fulfilling my responsibilities, I will think of "children first".
2. I will, as an agent of the state, uphold and enforce all laws, rules, regulations, and court orders pertaining to public schools. I will strive to bring any needed change only through legal and ethical procedures.
3. I will strive to help create public schools that meet the individual educational needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, gender, or social standing.
4. I will work to help my community understand the importance of proper support for public education, whether it be in providing adequate finance, optimum facilities, staffing and resources, or better educational programs for children.
5. I will join with my Board, staff, community, and students in becoming fully informed about the nature, value, and direction of contemporary education in our society. I will support needed change in our schools.
6. I will strive to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about our schools, and will try to interpret community aspirations to the school staff.
7. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to "run the schools" through administration, but together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run through effective policies.

Adopted: 6/4/99

Revised: 1/11/07

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Code of Ethics (continued)

0050(b)

8. I will attempt to confine my Board action to policy-making, planning and appraisal, and will help to frame policies and plans after my Board has consulted those who will be affected by its actions.
9. I will arrive at conclusions only after discussing the issue at hand with my fellow Board members in a legally held meeting. I will respect the opinions of others, and abide by the principle of majority-rule.
10. I will recognize that authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in public meeting, and will make no personal promises or take any private action which may compromise the Board or violate these ethical principles.
11. I will acknowledge that the Board represents the entire community, and will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interests or partisan political groups. I will never use my position on the Board for personal gain.
12. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to schools, which, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools or violate the law.
13. I will insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical.
14. I will strive to appoint the best professional leader available when a vacancy exists in the chief administrative position.
15. I will strive to appoint the best trained technical and professional personnel available, upon recommendation by the appropriate administrative officer.
16. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. I will strive to ensure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities, but also the necessary authority to perform effectively.
17. I will refer all complaints through the proper "chain of command" within the system, and discharge my obligation to act fairly in the event that a specific complaint comes before the Board of Education in accordance with Board policy, state or federal law.

Each member of the Board shall act in accordance with the provisions and tenor of this policy. Should any member of the Board fail to so act, such failure shall constitute cause for censure or other such action as deemed appropriate by the Board, in accordance with the Board's by-laws.

Adopted: 6/4/99

Revised: 1/11/07

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