

## SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS

A regulation establishing a Code of Ethics shall be approved by the Board of Education and shall serve as a guide for official conduct of all Board of Education members, the Superintendent of Schools, and his/her staff. Board members shall abide by our Oath of Office, which requires a Board member to uphold the laws of the Constitution of the United States and the State of New York. All local laws and regulations pertaining to education and public agencies will also be upheld.

The rules of ethical conduct of this policy and following regulation shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to, the prohibitions of the General Municipal Law relating to conflicts of interest of school district officers.

By ethics is meant those personal behavior traits, apart from such behavior as stipulated by law, relating to honesty, truthfulness, trustworthiness, integrity, credibility, fairness (as interpreted from policy and/or law), and respect for the dignity of individuals.

The Board of Education recognizes that sound ethical standards can serve to:

- a) Increase the effectiveness of the school board, and
- b) Establish high ethical standards as a role model for all students and employees in the Greece school system, and
- c) Establish and maintain confidence with students, parents, district employees, and the public at large.

Board members recognize that they are to be held accountable for: avoidance of even the appearance of a conflict of interest or partisan politics; honest, open, public discussions; conformance to the spirit as well as to the letter of the open meetings law; and protection of privacy and confidentiality in matters involving personnel, legal, and contractual matters.

Board members and staff commit themselves to:

- a) Assuring the opportunity for high quality education for every student and making the wellbeing of students the fundamental principle in all decisions and actions;
- b) Representing the entire community;
- c) Accepting all responsibilities as a means of unselfish service, while not using their positions for personal gain;
- d) Acting as part of an educational team with mutual respect and regard for each other's respective responsibilities and duties, recognizing that the strength of a school board is in acting as a board, not as individuals; and

(Continued)

**SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS (Cont'd.)**

- e) Preserving the obligation of having all issues considered fairly and without bias.

School board members shall strive to maintain high standards of effectiveness by participating, whenever possible, in workshops, seminars, special information events, conventions, meetings, etc., as made available by the District, Monroe County School Boards Association, New York State School Boards Association, National School Boards Association, and any program designed to aid and assist school board members to better perform in their roles and duties as members of the Board of Education.

To ensure that Board members have read and accept the conditions defined in this policy and its regulations, they will be asked to sign this policy annually and within ten working days of the date of their election or appointment.

The Board President and Board Clerk will be responsible for coordinating these tasks.

The Superintendent and Board Officers shall be responsible for reviewing this policy every three years.

Approved: June 14, 1988  
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