

161 BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Official Board action may be taken only when the Board is legally convened. Individual Board members may exercise authority over district affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal meeting of the Board or as authorized by the Board. School Board officers have powers and duties designated by law and board policy.

It shall be the policy of the Board to make its members, the district staff, and the public aware that only the Board has the authority to take official action.

As representatives of the citizens of the School District of Williams Bay, Board members should endeavor to work to uphold the following ideals:

1. To devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a School Board member so that effective and creditable service may be rendered.
2. To work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during vigorous debate of points at issue.
3. To base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation; to vote an honest conviction in every case, unswayed by the partisan bias of any kind; and thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.
4. To remember at all times that the individual has no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and to conduct relationships with the school staff, local citizenry, and all media on the basis of this fact.
5. To resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position of Board member for personal benefit or to benefit any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the School District.
6. To recognize that it is an obligation of the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as well as to plan for the business of school operation.
7. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the employed District Administrator and the professional and support staffs.
8. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media with respect to establishing policy on current school operations and proposed future developments.
9. To strive toward ideal conditions for the most effective school board service to the community in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as an instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of representative democracy.

10. To follow the Codes of Ethics established by state law in Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.59.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.59, 120.15, 120.16, 120.17

APPROVED: November 11, 2012

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