

## **BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as board members.

1. Board Members shall demonstrate loyalty to the District's stakeholders. This commitment shall supersede loyalties to staff, other organizations, and personal interests.
2. Members shall act in a manner consistent with the conflict of interest provisions in board policy GP-4: Board Ethics and Conflicts of Interest, and Oregon law.
3. Members shall at all times endeavor to act as a part of the Board as a whole, and avoid circumstances or actions that may be interpreted as an exercise of individual authority.
4. An individual member's interactions with public, press, or other entities should accurately represent board positions or decisions. Individual opinions should be clearly stated as such. The board chair is authorized to speak for the board. As a courtesy, Board members will inform the Chair of interviews with the media.
5. If a Board member chooses to create social media account(s) associated with their role as a Board member, they are responsible for maintaining such account(s) and following the suggested guidelines for use of social media below.
6. Members will not publicly express individual judgments of staff performance.
7. Formal evaluation of superintendent performance will be a process of the total board.
8. Board members will abide by appropriate Oregon public meetings law and will conduct the public's business in open meetings. Expected conduct includes the following:
  - a. Board Members will be properly prepared for Board Meetings and will discharge the duties of the office as prescribed by statute;
  - b. Members will contribute to thoughtful governance discussions and decisions by being well informed, open minded and deliberative;
  - c. Members will protect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature and other matters that may compromise the integrity or legal standing of the Board and District;
  - d. Board discussions appropriately conducted in executive session under Oregon public meetings law shall be kept confidential by members outside of executive session;
  - e. Members should respect the decision of the final vote of the board. It is the responsibility of individual members to express their opinion, including any dissention, during discussion of a topic.
  - f. Board members may choose to publicly express dissenting opinions after a vote and following the conclusion of a board meeting, but should be respectful of the majority decision and the desire of the board to move on to other matters.
8. Board members are subject to the same criminal history background checks that are required of school volunteers, including the criminal history records check that will be conducted every two years. If a Board member fails to clear the background check, he/she will be required to comply with the provisions of Administrative Policy regarding Visitors to District Facilities when entering a school for any purpose.
9. *Process for Addressing Board Member Violations.* The Board and its members are committed to faithful compliance with the provisions of the Board's policies. In the event of a member's violation of policy, the Board may seek remedy by the following process:
  - a. Conversation in a private setting between the offending member and the Board Chair or other individual member(s);

- b. Removal of the offending member from a committee or other Board-designated responsibility, if appropriate;
- c. Public censure of the offending member of the Board.

### **Suggested Guidelines for Use of Social Media by Board Members**

It is recommended that Board members operate within appropriate guidelines when communicating district business through their Board associated social media account(s). The following are suggested guidelines for Board members when posting on their Board associated social media account(s):

- Members are encouraged to clarify that they are communicating as an individual member of the Board and that their statements reflect their own views and not necessarily the official position of the district or Board. Board members should only post on behalf of the district if they have been delegated to do so by the Board.
- Board members should keep in mind that they may be perceived by the public as official district spokespersons. As such, Board members are encouraged to avoid posting information that has not been verified or has not been made available to the public and should never post anonymously about district business.
- Board members should encourage that community input be provided through the appropriate channels. Individual Board member's social media sites should not be used to conduct discussion or decisions of Board business.
- Board members should avoid posting content that indicates they have already formed an opinion on matters pending before the Board.
- When attempting to communicate about matters from a previous Board meeting, Board members should clarify that the posting is not an official record of the Board meeting and only share information from the open portions of the meeting.
- Board members are encouraged to report communications that are harassing, discriminatory, bullying or defamatory to the Superintendent or designee if the communications involve district officials, staff, students or business.
- Board members are considered mandatory reporters and are required to abide by the same reporting responsibilities in a social media context.
- Board members are reminded that they are subject to the district's records retention requirements and must retain their own posts and the content posting to their social media sites when required to do so by the district's record retention policy.

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Replaces: BD GOV B.5 & BA

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Monitoring Method:

Monitoring Frequency: