165 – Board Members' Code of Conduct

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical and professional conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum.

Accordingly:

- 1. Board members recognize that they represent the interests of the citizens of the entire school district, not any particular advocacy group, interest group, or constituency.
- 2. Board members recognize that they have no authority as individuals over the school board or school district except as explicitly set forth in state statutes, board policies, or as explicitly authorized by the Board.
 - a. Members' interaction with the superintendent or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individual board members except when explicitly authorized by state statutes, board policy, or the Board.
 - b. Members' interaction with the public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any Board member to speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions or when otherwise explicitly authorized by the Board.
 - c. Board members will follow the chain of command regarding concerns that either they or a citizen has with a staff member's performance and will direct all such concerns to the school administration.
 - d. Consideration will be given to meeting in closed session with respect to any judgments regarding the superintendent's performance.
- 3. With full regard to First Amendment rights and criminal misconduct in office, Board members shall be ever-mindful of the confidentiality appropriate to sensitive issues and information that otherwise may tend to compromise the integrity or legal standing of the Board, especially those matters which are the subject of closed sessions.
- 4. Board members shall maintain a system of communication and interaction that builds upon mutual respect and trust, embodies civility, and respects decisions made by the Board to build and maintain productive and effective relationships.
- 5. Board members shall comply with all Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws in all forms of communications to include but not limited to: e-mail, oral and written communications.

1st Read: 05/28/2008 2nd Read: 06/25/2008

CROSS REF.: 110, Board Governance Commitment; 141, Board Officers; 150, Board Governance Process; 165.1, Board Member Conflict of Interest; and, 166, Board Use of Electronic Mail