

# Mounds View Public Schools Board Governance Policy

## **BG-0400 School Board Ethics**

School Board members should be:

1. Committed to high quality education for every student.
2. Honest and sincere, having the courage of their convictions and always voting their beliefs.
3. Willing and capable of assuming responsibilities.
4. Able to work cooperatively with others.
5. Non-partisan in dealing with all school matters. This School Board does not wish in anyway to subordinate the education of children and youth to any partisan principle, group interest or personal ambition.
6. Willing to maintain confidentiality of privileged information.
7. Aware that the strength of the School Board is as a Board, not as individuals. A School Board member should never make "out-of-meeting" commitments.
8. Informed concerning state and federal laws and regulations affecting education.
9. Faithful in attendance at School Board meetings and diligent in preparation and study to become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
10. Willing to conduct school business in open meetings as required by law, even when the subject is controversial or personal.
11. Cognizant that the primary function of the School 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 superintendent of schools.
12. Willing to learn from association with other school board members from around the state and nation, and open to personal development through reading publications of the National School Boards Association and the Minnesota School Boards Association and attending seminars and conventions of these and similar organizations.
13. Aware that it is as important for the School Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as it is to plan for the business of school operation.
14. Vigilant against even the appearance of conflict of interest. School Board members should become familiar with the laws governing contracts and purchases as they relate to School Board members and carefully avoid any violation. Board members will abide by applicable Minnesota law as relating to conflict of interest.

### **Rationale:**

School Board members need to operate within the common and sensible boundaries.

### **Reference:**

M.S. 123B.09

M.S. 123B.20

M.S. 123B.52

### **Notes:**

Adopted: June 25, 2002