

# Mounds View Public Schools Board Governance Policy

## **BG-0401 School Board Members' Code of Conduct**

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

1. School Board members will represent the interests of the citizens of the entire School District. This accountability to the whole district supersedes:
  - a. any conflicting loyalty a member may have to other advocacy or interest groups
  - b. loyalty based upon membership on other boards or staffs
  - c. conflicts based upon the personal interest of any School Board member who is also a parent of a student in the Mounds View Public Schools
  - d. conflicts based upon being a relative of, or social relationship with an employee of the Mounds View Public Schools
2. School Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in School Board policies.
  - a. Members' interaction with the Superintendent or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly authorized by the School Board
  - b. Members' interaction with the public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any School Board member to speak for the School Board except to repeat explicitly stated School Board decisions
  - c. Members will not express individual negative judgments about Superintendent or staff performance. Any judgments of Superintendent performance will be made only by the full School Board in a scheduled public meeting
3. Members will maintain confidentiality appropriate to sensitive issues and information that otherwise may tend to compromise the integrity or legal standing of the board, especially those matters discussed in executive session.

**Monitoring Method:** School Board self-assessment  
**Monitoring Frequency:** Semi-annual in May and December

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

**Reference:**

**Notes:**

Adopted: June 25, 2002  
Reviewed: March 6, 2018  
Updated: May 11, 2021