

Board Member Oath and Conduct

Board Member Oath

Each Board member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

I, *(name)*, **do solemnly swear** (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of McLean County Unit School District No. 5, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I, **further swear** (or affirm) that:

I **shall respect** taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the District's assets;

I **shall encourage** and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I **shall recognize** that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting; and

I **shall abide** by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.

The president will administer the oath in an open board meeting; in the absence of the president, the vice president will administer the oath. If neither is available, the board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

Board Member Code of Conduct

The Board adopts the Illinois Association of School Boards' "Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards". Each member of the Board ascribes to the following Code of Conduct which reads:

"As a member of my local Board of Education, I shall do my utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to the following commitments:

1. I shall represent all District constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
2. I shall avoid any conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and shall not use my board membership for personal gain or publicity.
3. I shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting.

4. I shall take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and shall respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
5. I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
6. I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board.
7. I shall be involved and knowledgeable about not only local educational concerns, but also about state and national issues.

In addition, I shall encourage my Board to pursue the following goals:

1. The development of educational programs which meet the individual needs of every student, regardless of ability, race, sex, creed, social standing or disability.
2. The development of procedures for the regular and systematic evaluation of programs, staff performance, and board operations to ensure progress toward educational and fiscal goals.
3. The development of effective board policies which provide direction for the operation of the schools and delegate authority to the Superintendent for their administration.
4. The development of systematic communications which ensure that the Board, administration, staff, students and community are fully informed and that the staff understands the community's aspirations for its schools.
5. The development of sound business practices which ensure that every dollar spent produces maximum benefits."

A copy of the Code shall be displayed in the regular Board meeting room.

■
LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5
CROSS REF.: 1.30, 2.20, 2.50, 2.210

Adopted: August 9, 1995
Reviewed: October 2006
Amended: November 29, 2006