

AMHERST, MONT VERNON, SOUHEGAN, and SAU39 POLICY

BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics

Each Board member should adhere to the following expectations to facilitate the Board in its duty of providing educational services within the District:

1. Attend all proper Board meetings, insofar as possible, and become informed concerning issues to be considered at those meetings.
2. Understand that the Board, as governing body, does not manage the District, but rather sets the broad goals and standards for the District by way of policies adopted by a quorum of the Board at proper meetings under the state's Right-to-Know law.
3. Be informed about current educational issues by individual study and through information, such as those sponsored by state and national school board associations.
4. Make decisions and take votes based upon the available facts, the full deliberation of the Board, and independent judgment; refuse to surrender or subordinate that judgement to any individual or special interest group.
5. Work respectfully with other Board members by encouraging the free expression of opinions and ideas, and by displaying and demonstrating courtesy and decorum at all public meetings and in all public statements.
6. Seek opportunities for the Board to establish systematic communication channels with students, staff, and members of the community.
7. Recognize that final Board actions will be supported by all members of the Board; take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration; and refrain from private actions which undermine or compromise official Board action.
8. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law or is received in confidence or in non-public session.
9. Recognize that individual Board members are without authority to act relative to District business, and may not individually speak for or commit the Board to any action except as specifically designated to do so by Board action.
10. Understand the chain of command and refer problems or complaints to the proper administrative office per applicable Board policies.
11. Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies, and foster a relationship with the District administration toward the effective implementation of those policies.
12. Communicate to the Superintendent and to the Board (only as consistent with the state's Right-to-Know law) expressions of public reaction to Board policies, policies, and actions; and, encourage the public to express such reactions directly to the Superintendent and the Board.
13. Present personal criticisms concerning the District to the Superintendent rather than to District staff or the public.
14. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
15. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using Board position for personal or partisan gain.

Adopted: October 13, 2021 (SAU)