

SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Montrose School Board and its members to ensure the efficient, fair and professional administration of city government and services,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Montrose School Board hereby adopts the following code of ethics for members of the Montrose School Board:

School Board members shall:

1. recognize that the authority vests with the majority of the city commission when assembled in open meetings or executive meetings as authorized by law, that no school board member has legal status to bind the Montrose School District and that no individual school board member or a minority of school board members may make decisions on behalf of the Montrose School District unless expressly authorized by law and upon approval of the city commission;
2. make informed decisions on matters brought before the school board;
3. recognize and adhere to the policy that it is the responsibility of the school board to plan, make, implement, appraise and enforce policies and that it is not the responsibility of the school board or school board members to run the day-to-day operations of the Montrose School District;
4. observe and enforce federal and state laws and regulations;
5. respect the limited intent and scope of executive sessions as set forth in statute;
6. respect privileged communications made during executive sessions held pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 and shall not divulge privileged communications made during executive session held pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 unless required by law or with the prior approval of the school board;
7. distinguish between personal views and those of the school board when making public comments regarding school district matters;
8. present information to the school board without distortion and accurately represent facts concerning school district matters in direct or indirect public statements;
9. maintain professional relationships in a manner which are free of vindictiveness, recrimination and harassment;
10. avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in his/her position as an elected official;
11. refer all public complaints and personal criticisms to the appropriate school administrator and only after inability to have resolution at the administrative level allow the complaint or criticism to be discussed at a school board meeting;
12. respect the legitimacy of the goals and interests of other school board members and respect the rights of other school board members to pursue goals and policies different from their own;
13. respect, require and contribute to the maintenance of order and decorum in proceedings before the school board;
14. be honest, patient, dignified and courteous to those with whom he/she deals in with in his/her official capacity;

15. dispose promptly of the business of the school district for which he/she is responsible and diligently discharge responsibilities;
16. inform the school board president or school district business manager as soon as possible upon learning that he/she will not be in attendance at a school board meeting;
17. refrain from financial, personal, professional and business dealings that interfere with, are in conflict with or give the appearance of being in conflict with the proper performance of official duties;
18. not exploit the school district or use the office of school board member for personal gain, for the gain of friends or supporters, or to promote political candidates or partisan political activities;
19. not accept nor offer any gratuities, gifts, services or things of value that (a) impair professional judgment, (b) offer special advantage or benefit to any person or organization, or (c) provide a direct or indirect personal benefit.
20. not commit any act of moral turpitude or gross immorality;
21. not allow family, social or other relationships to inappropriately influence his/her decisions as a school board member.

Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2, the school board may enter into executive session to discuss the performance of an elected school board member, the performance which could include a perceived or alleged violation of this policy. Should the majority of school board members determine that a school board member has violated one or more provisions of this policy, the school board may, in open session, reprimand the school board member for the violation.

Adopted: October 8, 2007

Reviewed: February 12, 2018