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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Code of Governance

Serving on the Central Kitsap School District Board of Directors is a privilege requiring a commitment to earn the trust and respect of our community, parents, students, and staff.

The values, knowledge, and skills of effective school board members are based on adherence to basic positive principles such as honesty, integrity, and respect for human dignity. As publicly elected officials, Central Kitsap School District board members are expected to recognize and accept the responsibility of their role as independently elected officials and their authority to act only within the structure of the school District's Board of Directors. It is expected that each director will take the time necessary to understand the beliefs, acquire the knowledge, and develop the skills necessary to be an effective member of the school board.

Beliefs

Each board member is expected to:

1. Maintain a high standard of civility and respect that is reflected in their public and private behavior throughout their elected term of service.
2. Recognize that schools thrive in a community where there is an atmosphere of mutual respect.
3. Be fully prepared and work within the board's structure.
4. Make decisions to ensure equal access to public education as the best way to sustain the democratic way of life.
5. Acknowledge that an effective board must be composed of members who respect its processes and recognize dissenting viewpoints.
6. Respect the professional expertise of District staff as necessary for the operation of effective schools.
7. Support actions taken by the board and clearly differentiate personal opinion from board decisions when speaking in the minority.
8. Make decisions to ensure the rights and welfare of all children.
9. Ensure that schools are free of bigotry and racism.
10. Maintain independent judgment free of special interests and partisan political groups and avoid the use of schools for personal gain.
11. Create educational environments that meet the individual needs of all students.
12. Recognize that effective internal and external communications are an essential requirement within our public schools and a specific expectation of school board members.

13. Refer to education research and practice as a basis for decision-making.
14. Be accountable for his/her actions.
15. Cooperate with other board members, the staff, and the community.
16. Exercise self-control by confining actions to policy-making, monitoring, and evaluation of education policies.

#### Knowledge and Skills

Each board member is expected to:

1. Understand the state's laws and regulations and the District's policies, procedures, and contractual obligations that govern the operation of the schools.
2. Recognize that the board's authority to act can be exercised only when participating in an official meeting of the board.
3. Hold confidential from the public, including family and friends, all matters discussed in executive sessions.
4. Know and accept the appropriate roles of the board and superintendent in operation of the school District.
5. Know how to plan strategically for the schools' immediate, intermediate, and long-range futures; enact policies to ensure fair, efficient, and effective operations; monitor, rather than manage, the implementation of plans and policies, and evaluate the District's educational effectiveness.
6. Recognize that the board must devote adequate resources to staff development for the professional growth of the District.
7. Know that inter-dependent relationships based on collaboration with other school board members, boards, other educational policy makers, and appropriate agencies will improve public education.
8. Keep abreast of important developments in educational trends, research, and practices.

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Adopted: April 10, 1995  
Revised: November 29, 1995  
Revised: May 23, 2001  
Revised: October 6, 2021

Reviewed: December 13, 2023