

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1 Pursuant to the provisions of §806 of the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officers which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. It is the purpose of this local policy to promulgate these rules of ethical conduct for the officers of the school district. These rules shall serve as a guide for official conduct of officers of the district. The rules of ethical conduct of this local policy as adopted, shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to any prohibition of article eighteen of the General Municipal Law or any other general or special law relating to ethical conduct and interest in contracts of municipal officers.

Section 2 Definition

- a. "Municipal Officer" means an officer of the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District Board of Education
- b. "Interest" means a pecuniary or material benefit accruing to a municipal officer unless the context otherwise requires.

Section 3 Standards of Conduct

The Board therefore adopts the following code of ethics for the guidance of its members.

a. General behavior and priorities

All members are expected to commit themselves to:

- Assuring the opportunity for high quality education for every student and making the well-being of students the fundamental principle in all actions
- Representing the best interests of each student without regard to any race, creed, color, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation
- Accepting all responsibilities of his/her appointed position unselfishly, while not using their position or its influence for personal gain
- Acting as a part of an education team with mutual respect and regard for each other's respective responsibilities and duties, recognizing that the strength of a school is acting cooperatively as a community, not as individuals
- Upholding the principles of due process and individual dignity, and protecting the civil and human rights of all
- Maintaining uniformly high standards and effectiveness in education through continuous personal and professional development
- Obeying all national, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to education and public schools

- Instilling respect for the community, the state, and the nation
- a. Gifts He/She shall not directly or indirectly, solicit any gift; or accept or receive any gift having a singular or cumulative value of seventy-five dollars or more in any one calendar year, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form.
 - b. Confidential information He/She shall not disclose confidential information acquired by him/her in the course of his/her official duties or use such information to further his/her personal interest.
 - c. Representation before one's own agency He/She shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any municipal agency of which he/she is an officer or member, or of any municipal agency over which he/she has jurisdiction or to which he/she has the power to appoint any member or officer.
 - d. Representation before any agency for a contingent fee He/She shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any agency of his/her municipality, whereby the compensation is to be dependent or contingent upon any action by such agency with respect to such matter, provided that this paragraph shall not prohibit the fixing at any time of fees based upon the reasonable value of the services rendered.
 - e. Disclosure of interest To the extent that he/she knows thereof, a member of the Board of Education shall publicly disclose on the official record the nature and extent of any direct or indirect financial or other private interest he/she has in such matter.

Section 4 Future Employment

An officer shall not, after the termination of service with the Board, appear before the Board, or any panel or committee of the Board, in relation to any case, proceeding, or application in which he or she personally participated during the period of his or her service that was under his or her active consideration.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to bar or prevent the timely filing by a present or former Board member of any claim, account, demand or suit against the district, or any agency thereof on behalf of himself/herself or any member of his/her family arising out of any personal injury or property damage or for any lawful benefit authorized or permitted by law.

Section 5 Distribution of Code of Ethics

The Superintendent of Schools shall cause a copy of this code of ethics to be distributed to every officer of the School Board within thirty days after the effective date of this code of ethics. Each officer elected or appointed thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering upon the duties of his office.

Section 6 Penalties In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, any person who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this code may be suspended or removed from office.

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