

SECTION: LOCAL BOARD
PROCEDURES

TITLE: CODE OF ETHICS

ADOPTED: March 21, 2000

REVISED: JUNE 10, 2010

AVON GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

004.1 CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1. Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of ethical behavior among its members. It is the policy of the Board to require all of its members to abide by the Code of Ethics.

Section 2. Authority

The members of the Board understand that their legal authority is derived from the General Assembly which ultimately controls the organization and operations of the school district and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the Board and the people of the community for the exercise of local autonomy.

The Board adheres to the belief that its members have authority only when acting as a Board legally in session. The Board shall not be bound in anyway by any statement or action on the part of any individual member except when such statement or action is in pursuance of special instructions from the Board.

Section 3. Guidelines

The School Directors of the Avon Grove School Board adopt the following as their Code of Ethics.

The members of the Board will be:

1. Be staunch advocates of free public education.
2. Uphold and enforce all laws, State Board rules, Department of Education regulations and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Recognize that fellow citizens have entrusted them with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.4. Make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, gender or social standing.5. Take the initiative in helping all the people in the community to have all the facts all the time about their schools, to that end that they will readily provide the finest possible school programs, school staff and school facilities.6. Confine their board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal. The Board will form policies and plans only after consulting the Superintendent of Schools.7. Never neglect their personal obligation to the community and their legal obligations to the state, nor surrender the responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization.8. Work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate points of an issue – demonstrating courtesy, decorum and fair play while carrying out their responsibilities and duties as a Board member.9. Devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Board member so that they may render effective and creditable service.10. Carry out their responsibilities to work with other board members in establishing effective school policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent.11. Base their individual decisions upon all available facts in each situation; to vote by honest conviction in every case not swayed by partisan bias of any kind, thereafter to abide and uphold and support the final majority decision of the Board.12. Recognize that authority rests with the Board and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.13. Refuse to surrender their independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or that of their relative or friend.14. Hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools, which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, or the schools. In all other matters, the Board will provide accurate information in concert with fellow Board members.
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15. Support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
16. Vote to appoint the best-qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.
17. Welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens and organizations in establishing policy or current school operations and any proposed future developments.
18. Refer all complaints to the appropriate level of district personnel.
19. Strive toward ideal conditions for the most effective School Board services to the community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education.

Section 4 Sanctions

Any Board member who attempts to speak for the Board without express permission from the Board, or who in other ways violates the Code Of Ethics, will be subject to sanctions in the form of private or public censure upon a majority vote of the Board.