

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION

The Opelika City Schools Board of Education desires to operate with the highest standards of stewardship and principles of public service possible and to that end the board adopts this Code of Conduct to provide that members of the public governing board will:

I. CONDUCT OF INDIVIDUALS

1. Attends and participates in regularly scheduled and called board meetings.
2. Reads and prepares in advance to discuss issues to be considered on the board agenda.
3. Recognizes that the authority of the board rests only with the board as a whole and not with individual board members.
4. Upholds and enforces applicable laws, rules and regulations of the local board, and the Alabama State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining specifically to the school system.
5. Renders all decisions based on available facts by exercising independent judgment instead of the opinion of individuals or special interest groups.
6. Works with other board members and the superintendent to establish effective policies to further the educational goals of the school system.
7. Makes decisions on policy matters only after full consideration at public board meetings.
8. Complies with the requirements of the *School Board Governance Improvement Act*.
9. Communicates in a respectful, professional manner with and about fellow board members and the superintendent.
10. Takes no action that will compromise the board or school system administration.
11. Refrains from using the position of school board member for personal or partisan gain or to benefit any person or entity over the interests of the school system.
12. Informs the superintendent and fellow board members of business relationships or personal relationships for any matter that will come before the board.
13. Abstains from voting on or seeking to influence personnel or other actions involving family members or close associates or private interests.
14. Communicates to the board and the superintendent public reaction to board policies and school programs.
15. Advocates for the needs, resources, and interests of the public school students and the school system.
16. Safeguards the confidentiality of nonpublic information.
17. Shows respect and courtesy to staff members.

II. CONDUCT OF INDIVIDUALS AT BOARD MEETINGS

1. Work with other board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during the discussion and resolution of issues at board meetings.
2. Take actions that reflect that the first and foremost concern is for the educational welfare of all students attending system schools.
3. Make decisions in accordance with the interests of the school system as a whole based on system finances available to accomplish educational goals and comply with the *School Fiscal Accountability Act*.
4. Abide by and support all majority decisions of the board.
5. Act on personnel recommendations of the Superintendent in a timely manner, particularly when there are financial implications of such decisions.
6. Approve operating budgets and budget amendments that are aligned with system goals and objectives and are fiscally responsible.
7. Honor and protect the confidentiality of all discussions during executive session of the board.

III. CONDUCT OF THE BOARD AS A WHOLE

1. Recognize that the Superintendent serves as the chief executive officer and secretary to the board and should be present at all meetings of the board except when his or her contract, salary or performance is under consideration.
2. Honor the Superintendent's authority for the day-to-day administration of the school system.
3. In concert with the Superintendent, regularly and systematically communicate board actions and decisions to students, staff, and community.
4. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of policies and programs to improve system performance.
5. Develop, in concert with the Superintendent, the vision and goals for the school system to address student needs, advance student performance, and monitor the implementation of policies and programs.
6. Provide opportunities for all members to express opinions prior to board action.

ADOPTED: February 28, 2013

LEGAL REF: Code of Alabama §16-1-14.1