

***Policy Type: Governance Culture***

**Board Members' Code of Conduct**

The Board and its members will conduct themselves lawfully with integrity and high ethical standards in order to model the behaviors expected of staff and students and to build public confidence and credibility.

1. Board members will serve the interests of the citizens of the entire school district. Members recognize this responsibility to the whole to be greater than:
  - a. any loyalty a member may have to any other advocacy or interest groups;
  - b. loyalty based upon membership on other boards or staffs;
  - c. conflicts based upon the personal interest of any Board member who is also a parent of a student in the district;
  - d. conflicts based upon being a relative of an employee of the district; or
2. Board members will not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization.
  - a. Members will not attempt to assume personal responsibility for resolving operational problems or complaints.
  - b. Members will not personally direct any part of the operational organization.
  - c. When speaking to the press or otherwise publicly sharing personal opinions, members will respect decisions of the Board and will not undermine those decisions
  - d. Members will not publicly express individual negative judgments about Superintendent or staff performance. Any such judgments of Superintendent or staff performance will be expressed in executive session.

3. To build trust among members and to ensure an environment conducive to effective governance, members will:
  - a. focus on issues rather than personalities
  - b. respect decisions of the full Board
  - c. exercise honesty in all written and interpersonal interaction, never intentionally misleading or misinforming each other
  - d. criticize privately, praise publicly
  - e. make every reasonable effort to protect the integrity and promote the positive image of the district and one another
  - f. never embarrass each other or the district
4. Members will exercise personal discipline in the performance of their duties, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Board members.
5. Members shall maintain confidentiality appropriate to sensitive issues and information that otherwise may tend to compromise the integrity or legal standing of the Board, especially those matters discussed in executive session.

Adopted: March 3, 2009

Amended: December 13, 2010

**Monitoring Method:** *Board self-assessment*

**Monitoring Frequency:** *Annually per work plan*

Hutchinson, KS USD 308 Board of Education

The Aspen Group International, LLC©