

BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

Members of the Board of Education have legal authority for the conduct of the district schools only when acting as a body in a properly convened session. Board members acting as individuals have no authority over personnel or school affairs.

When Members of the Board speak to individuals outside of Board meetings, public expression is not to be construed as Board policy. Information from executive sessions must remain confidential at all times, unless release is appropriately authorized. The Board will not be bound in any way by any individual's statement or action unless the Board, through an adopted policy or by a majority vote of Board membership, has delegated this authority to the individual member.

Ref: Education Law §§1604; 1701; 1708; 1709; 1710
Matter of Bruno, 4 EDR 14 (1964)

Adoption date: August 7, 2012

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT EXHIBIT*

As a member of my Board of Education, I will strive to improve public education, and to that end I will:

attend all Board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;

work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during vigorous debate and points at issue;

base personal decisions and votes upon all available facts in each situation and upon honest conviction, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind;

work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent of Schools;

abide by the final majority decisions of the Board;

remember that Board members have no legal authority outside of Board meetings and to conduct any relationship with the school staff, the local citizens and the media on the basis of this fact;

encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members, and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff, and all elements of the community;

maintain familiarity with educational issues through study and participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by state and national school boards associations;

support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;

avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain;

refrain from disclosing confidential information acquired in the course of my official duties and from using such information to further my personal interests; and

remember always that my primary concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the East Rockaway Union Free School District.

Board Member Signature

Date

*This exhibit contains *suggested* guidelines for Board member conduct. It is not required by law or regulation.