

POLICY BCA

Board of Education Las Cruces Public Schools

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Responsible Office: Board of Education

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE

The Board of Education is committed to its members having a full understanding of and adherence to the Las Cruces Board of Education Code of Ethics and the Code of Ethics of the New Mexico School Board's Association members in all matters relating to Board functions, including the need for confidentiality and conflict of interest.

II. POSITION

- A. A Board member will remember always that a Board member's first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students who attend the Las Cruces Public Schools.
- B. A Board member will attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
- C. A Board member will endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings.
- D. A Board member will render all decisions based on the available facts and the Board member's independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
- E. A Board member will remember at all times that an individual member has no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and will initiate official interactions and relationships with the school staff, local citizenry, and news media within the scope of authority authorized or delegated by the Board.
- F. A Board member will maintain a working rapport with other members of the Board and with the Superintendent and will respect and encourage the right of other Board members to hold and express their individual views and opinions.
- G. A Board member will support the Board once a legal decision has been made by a majority vote.
- H. A Board member will not convey the impression that he or she has the authority to make decisions or take action on behalf of the Board of Education or the Administration of the Las Cruces Public Schools, unless

he/she has been authorized by or received the delegated power to do so by a majority of the Board.

- I. A Board member will not take any action which is intended to give the impression that he or she would represent special interests or partisan politics for personal gain.
- J. A Board member will work with other Board members to establish effective board policies and respect the statutory authority of the Superintendent in the administration and operation of the School District.
- K. A Board member will bear in mind that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the Las Cruces Public Schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business and operations shall be left to the Superintendent of Schools and his/her professional and support staff unless otherwise provided by law.
- L. A Board member will recognize that it is the responsibility of the Board to see that the Las Cruces Public Schools are properly administered, not to administer them, and the Board shall hold the Superintendent responsible for the implementation of Board policies and the administration and operation of the School District.
- M. A Board member will communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent whenever complaints as to or public reactions to Board policies and the school program warrant Board discussion or action.
- N. A Board member will devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school board member, the state school laws, policies and regulations of the School District and the policies, rules and regulations of the New Mexico Public Education Department.
- O. A Board member will support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as School District staff, and insist on regular and professional evaluations of staff consistent with state law and regulation.
- P. A Board member will resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a Board member for personal benefit or benefit of any other individual or organizations which is not consistent with the best interests of the Las Cruces Public Schools.
- Q. A Board member will take no private action that will compromise the Board of Education or the Administration of the Las Cruces Public Schools.
- R. A Board member will respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged or protected from disclosure under applicable law.

- S. A Board member will not let any personal or business interest interfere with the Board member's duties as a public official, and the Board member shall fulfill all requirements of New Mexico Statutes Annotated § 22-5-4 (2003), as amended and recodified in the future, and other duties and obligations imposed by law in a professional manner and to the best of his/her ability.
- T. A Board member will assure that special committees, when appointed, have a well defined objective and that there is understanding that the committee serves in an advisory capacity only.
- U. The Board may designate a spokesperson to keep the public informed about the quality and condition of public school education in the School District.
- V. The Board may delegate to designated members the authority to initiate and implement all efforts to secure adequate financial support for the School District.
- W. The Board shall assure that all financial transactions of the School District are conducted in a professional, legal and ethical manner.
- X. A Board member will protect confidential and/or privileged information which is produced for or presented during closed sessions of Board meetings or is provided directly to the Board member unless a majority of the Board members agree to release the information, subject to applicable laws.
- Y. A Board member will welcome and encourage active cooperation for the benefit of the School District of sincerely interested individuals, organizations, school personnel and media representatives.
- Z. A Board member will take appropriate action regarding employee termination or discharge in hearings before the Board pursuant to New Mexico Statutes Annotated § 22-10A-24 or 22-10A-27 (2003) as amended or recodified in the future.

III. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Bonnie L. Votaw

Board of Education, President

Dec. 16, 2008

Date Approved

History: Formerly Policy 115, Revised 10.07.03; formerly Policy 116, Board Protocols and Lines of Communication, 2nd Reading, 11.04.03; revised 12.16.08

Legal Reference: N.M. Stat. Ann. §10-15-1 thru -4; 22-5-4; 22-5-5; 22-10A-24 and 22-10A-27 (2003)