

VAN VLECK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

I realize that to be the most effective advocate for children we, as a board, must function as a team. To this end, I pledge to do my best to adhere to the principles listed below. Should I for whatever reason, fail to follow these guidelines I ask my fellow board members to call to it my attention. When that happens I pledge to accept the feedback without anger or finger pointing and to renew my efforts to follow this Code.

- I shall follow Board policy and Board Procedures and will abide by the decisions of the Board as a whole.
- I shall not take individual actions that will compromise the School District, the Board or Administration. I recognize that we are only authorized to take action in an official capacity as a member of the Board as a whole at a legally called meeting, or when delegated authority by the Board as a whole.
- I will not represent to anyone that I, as an individual, have any authority to act on behalf of the Board, the District or the Administration, unless expressly authorized by the Board to do so.
- I shall respect the role of the Administration to decide on "How" policy should be implemented and will not encroach on administrative duties or attempt to micromanage the affairs of the School District.
- I shall not try to solve complaints or grievances individually, except that they may counsel patrons or employees who inquire as to the correct procedure to be followed for the resolution of complaints or grievances.
- I will not meet with District personnel regarding District business unless it is scheduled through the Superintendent's Office.
- I shall channel all requests for information through the Superintendent's Office.
- I will not meet with or discuss District business with vendors, current prospective, other than by appointment scheduled through the Superintendent's Office.
- I will not individually undertake to observe the performance of employees, including classroom teachers, for the purposes of "evaluating" their performance.
- I will not reprimand or provide direction to staff.
- I will not attempt to exert pressure or influence on the staff in order to coerce them into making particular recommendations or decisions.
- I will not put items on the agenda for the purpose of making a political statement, nor will I "play to the audience" in Board meetings. I will not embarrass another Board member or school employee in public.
- I reserve the right to disagree, but I will not be disagreeable. Nor will I harbor grudges from past issues or events.

- I will attend all regularly scheduled Board Meetings and notify the Superintendent's Office if I am going to be absent. In addition, I will come to the Board meetings prepared and become informed on issues to be considered at those meetings.
- I will hold discussion about any breach of ethics in executive session.
- I will accept criticism without getting defensive or angry.
- I will not participate in the election (for or against) another Board member.