

Adopted: August 21, 2007
Amended: January 20, 2011
Amended: January 1, 2016
Amended: February 23, 2017

202 CODE OF ETHICS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist members of the Board of Directors in recognizing the role of individual school board members and the contribution that each must make to develop an effective and responsible school board.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Each school board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

- A. As a member of the Board of Directors I will:
1. Listen to the opinion of others.
 2. Attend school board meetings.
 3. Come to the meetings prepared for discussion of agenda items.
 4. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates.
 5. Be motivated only by a desire to best serve the pupils of Kato Public Charter School.
 6. Be informed of the proper duties and functions of a school board member.
 7. Recognize that school business may only be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the school board.
 8. Vote my conscience after informed discussions
 9. Avoid conflicts of interest and refrain from using my school board position for personal gain.
 10. Support the decision of the school board, even if my position concerning the issue was different.
 11. Comply with all federal, state, and local laws relating to my work as a school board member.
 12. Comply with all policies as adopted by the school board.
 13. Abide by all rules and regulations of the Minnesota Department of Education and other state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over charter schools.
- B. In performing the proper functions as a member of the Board of Directors I will:
1. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect, conserve, and advance its progress.
 2. Demonstrate focus on education policy.
 3. Ensure the school is run with defined roles for management and oversight and act in accordance with my oversight role.
- C. To maintain relations with other members of the Board of Directors I will:
1. Respect the right of others to have and express opinions. Express opinions in accordance with meeting protocols and relevancy to meeting topics.
 2. Recognize that authority rests with the school board in legal session—not with the individual members of the school board except as authorized by law.
 3. Make no disparaging remarks, in or out of school board meetings, about other members of the school board or their opinions.

4. Make decisions in school board meetings only after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.
 5. Insist that special committees be appointed to serve only in an advisory capacity to the school board.
 6. Approach discussion and votes with an open mind.
- D. In meeting my responsibilities to my school and community I will:
1. Appraise both the present and future educational needs of the school district.
 2. Collaborate in obtaining adequate financial support for the school program.
 3. Ensure that business transactions of the school district be ethical and open
 4. Uphold my responsibilities and accountability to the taxpayers.
- E. In working with the school staff and committee leadership I will:
1. Hold the Director and staff responsible for the administration of the school district.
 2. Ensure that personnel will be held professionally accountable in serving the school district.
 3. Review the recommendation of the Director and the Personnel Committee in the hiring of all employees.
 4. Ensure the Director and committee leadership to keep the school board adequately informed at all times through both oral reports and written committee minutes.
 5. Give the Director and committee leadership counsel and advice.
 6. Refer all complaints to the Director or proper committee chair, or insist that the complaints be presented in writing to the entire school board.
 7. Delegate the implementation of school board decisions to the Director and staff.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 123.33 (School Board Powers)
Minn. Stat. 123.35, Subd. 1 (School District Powers)

Cross References:

MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 1, School Board Member Code of Ethics