



**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to assist the individual school board member in understanding his or her role as part of the school board and in recognizing the contribution that each member 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 state in this policy.

**A. AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, I WILL:**

1. Attend school board meetings.
2. Come to the meetings prepared for discussion of the agenda items.
3. Listen to the opinions and views of others (including, but not limited to, other school board members, administration, staff, students, and community members).
4. Vote my conscience after informed discussion, unless I abstain because a conflict of interest exists.
5. Support the decision of the school board, even if my position concerning the issue was different.
6. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and appreciate their work.
7. Be primarily motivated by a desire to provide the best possible education for the students, and possible students, of Little Angel Preschool.
8. Inform myself about the proper duties and functions of a school board member.

**B. IN PERFORMING THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, I WILL:**

1. Focus on education policy as much as possible.
2. Remember my responsibility is to set policy - not to implement policy.
3. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect, conserve, and advance its progress.

4. Recognize that my responsibility, exercised through the actions of the school board as a whole, is to see that the program is properly run - not to run them myself.
5. Work through the director - not over or around the director.
6. Delegate the implementation of school board decisions to the director.

**C. TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, I WILL:**

1. Respect the rights of others to have and express opinions.
2. Recognize that authority rests with the school board - not with the individual members of the school board.
3. Make no disparaging remarks, in or out of school board meetings, about other members of the school board, employees, or members of the congregation on their opinions.
4. Keep an open mind about how I will vote on any proposition until the board has met and fully discussed the issue.
5. Make decisions by voting in school board meetings after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.

**D. IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY COMMUNITY, I WILL:**

1. Attempt to appraise and plan for both the present and future educational needs of Little Angel Preschool.
2. Attempt to obtain adequate financial support for the Little Angel Preschool.
3. Insist that business transactions of the school district be ethical and open.
4. Strive to uphold my responsibilities and accountability to the congregation.

**E. IN WORKING WITH THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF, I WILL:**

1. Hold the director responsible for the administration of the program.
2. Give the director authority with his/her responsibilities.
3. Assure that the preschool is administered by the best professional personnel available.
4. Consider the recommendation of the director in hiring employees.
5. Insist the director keep the school board adequately informed at all times.
6. Offer the director counsel and advice.
7. Recognize the status of the director as a non-voting school board member.

8. Refer all complaints to the proper administrative officer or insist that the complaints be presented in writing to the whole school board for proper referral according to the chain of command.
9. Present any personal criticisms of employees to the director.
10. Provide support for the director and employees of the program so they may perform their proper functions on a professional level.

F. IN FULFILLING MY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, I WILL:

1. Comply with all Little Angel Preschool policies as adopted by the school board.
2. Abide by all rules and regulations as promulgated by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
3. Avoid conflicts of interest and refrain from using my school board position for personal gain.
4. Take no private action that will compromise the school board or administration.
5. Guard the confidentiality of information that is protected under applicable law.

*I have read and received a copy of policy 101, School Board Member Codes of Ethics, and understand that my failure to abide by this code of ethics will result in my immediate dismissal from Little Angel Preschool School Board.*

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*School Board Member Signature*

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*Date*

*Legal References:* Minn. Stat. § 2503 (Child Care Center Licensing)

*Cross Reference:* School Board Member Code of Ethics 114, Forest Lake Area Schools

ADOPTED: 6/3/2019