

***Policy Type: Governance Process***

**Board Members' Code of Conduct**

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Board members.

Accordingly:

1. Board members will represent the interests of the citizens of the entire school district. This accountability to the whole district supersedes:
  - a. any conflicting loyalty a member may have to other advocacy or interest groups
  - b. loyalty based upon membership on other boards or staffs
  - c. conflicts based upon the personal interest of any Board member who is also a parent of a student in the district
  - d. conflicts based upon being a relative of an employee of the district
2. Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in Board policies.
  - a. Members' interaction with the Superintendent or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly authorized by the Board.
  - b. Members' interaction with the public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any Board member to speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions.
  - c. Members may not express individual negative judgments about Superintendent or staff performance in a public meeting. Superintendent performance reviews established by law and policy will be made collectively by the full Board in a scheduled public meeting.
3. Members shall maintain confidentiality appropriate to sensitive issues and information that otherwise may tend to compromise the integrity or legal standing of the board, especially those matters discussed in executive session.

***Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment***

***Monitoring Frequency: Twice Annually in First and Third Quarters***

Fargo Public Schools Board of Education