

FRANKLIN WEST SUPERVISORY UNION
FAIRFAX SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS 2021

As elected members of the School Board, we, including the superintendent, accept the high honor and trust that has been placed in us as public officials to ensure the school mission and district action plan is carried out, and to ensure students are engaged in their education in a way which develops their capacity to pursue their goals and fosters lifelong learning. To that end, we hereby publicly commit, collectively and individually, to the following operating protocols. We shall...

IN OUR OPERATIONS

1. Represent the needs, interests, and achievement of ALL students in the district and place these above all else in the decisions we make.
2. Honor the concept that the school board recognizes our roles and obligations as elected members of the community, remembering that we represent the entire community at all times.
3. Exercise leadership in vision, planning, policy making, evaluation, accountability, and advocacy on behalf of the students and district while authorizing the superintendent and supervisory union and district staff to manage day-to-day operations.
4. Acknowledge that a school board meeting is a business meeting that is held in public - not a public meeting.
5. Make every effort to ensure meetings are effective and efficient by being well-prepared and conducting district business through a set agenda, with emerging items addressed in subsequent meetings through agenda items.
6. Accept Board members' unselfish service to the community and agree that our positions shall not be used for personal or partisan gain.
7. Operate respectfully and in accordance with the State of Vermont Open Meeting Law in deliberations on which public policy is based while maintaining operational and executive session confidentiality.
 - a. *Group emails may be used to schedule a meeting, create an agenda, or to distribute materials to discuss at a meeting. Group emails should never be used for discussion purposes. 1 V.S.A. § 310.*

IN OUR COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Set the tone for the entire system and make every effort to promote a positive image for our school system.
2. Work to build trust between and among school board members and treat everyone with dignity and respect, even in times of disagreement by maintaining an open environment where each member, the superintendent, school administrators, school staff, and the public is empowered to freely express opinions, concerns, and ideas.
3. Strive to avoid 'surprises' for the board or superintendent at school board meetings.
4. When not in a scheduled meeting, channel questions, concerns, and requests for information/data through the school board chair and superintendent, rather than directly to district staff.
5. Voice opinions respectfully and treat with respect other board members, administrators, school staff, and members of the public;

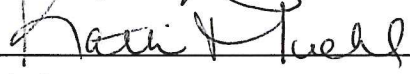
IN OUR DECISION MAKING:

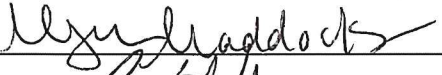
1. Keep an open mind and strive to make decisions by consensus using the best information available at the time, considering available facts, research, best practice, public input, and the superintendent's, administrators, and other members' recommendations, proposals, and suggestions.
2. Engage in critical thinking, expecting all Board members to freely offer differing points of view as part of the discussion, prior to making a Board decision.
3. Recognize and respect our authority exists only when a quorum of the Board meets and is derived only through a majority decision of the Board acting as a whole during an open, public meeting.
4. Accept that individual members do not have authority, will not take unilateral action, and when attending meetings or acting as a liaison of the school board or district, will only speak as individuals and not for the school board except when reporting a decision of the majority.

These protocols are to be reviewed and signed yearly at the first meeting following the spring election, and/or whenever a new Board member or superintendent begins their term of service.

SIGNATURES:

Board Member:  Date: 3/10/2021

Board Member:  Date: 3/11/21

Board Member:  Date: 3/11/2021

Board Member:  Date: 3/12/2021

Board Member:  Date: 3/12/2021

Superintendent:  Date: 03-12-2021