

## **School Committee Member Ethics**

The School Committee, desiring to operate under the highest ethical standards, adopts the following code of ethics for Committee members.

Committee members will:

1. Recognize that the School Committee functions only as a School Committee through duly adopted policies and actions approved at public sessions, that individual School Committee members have no authority to act on behalf of the School Department or the School Committee except when delegated by the whole School Committee.
2. Assure the opportunity for high quality education for every student.
3. Represent the entire community without fear or favor.
4. Respect the decisions of the School Committee.
5. Strive to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about our schools and will try to interpret community aspirations to the school staff.
6. Arrive at conclusions only after discussing all aspects of the issue at hand with fellow School Committee members in a meeting. Will respect the opinions of others, and abide by the principle of majority rule.
7. Recognize that authority rests only with the whole School Committee assembled in a meeting, and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the School Committee except when delegated by the whole School Committee.
8. Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
9. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all School Committee members, and seek systematic communications between the School Committee and students, staff, and all elements of the community.

Legal Reference

[General Laws of Rhode Island, 42-46-1](#)

[Barrington Town Charter, 9-2-1](#)