

CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The Perry Board of Education will be guided by the following Code of Ethics,

1. As a member of my local board of education, representing all the citizens of my district, I recognize:
 - A. That my fellow citizens have entrusted me with the educational development of the children and youth of this community.
 - B. That the public expects my first and greatest concern to be the best interest of each and every one of these young people without distinction as to who they are, what their background may be, or where they may live.
 - C. That the future welfare of this community of the state, and of the nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of educational experiences we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.
 - D. That my fellow board members and I must take the initiative in helping all the people of this community to have all the facts all the time about the school, to the end that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, school staff, and school facilities.
 - E. That legally, the authority of the board is derived from the state which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school district and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.
 - F. That I must never neglect my personal obligation to the community and my legal obligation to the state, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization; but that beyond these, I have a moral and civic obligation to the nation which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States are kept free and strong.
2. In view of the foregoing consideration, it will be my constant endeavor:
 - A. To devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school board member so that I may render effective and creditable service.
 - B. To work with my fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points at issue.
 - C. To base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; to vote my honest conviction in every case, un-swayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter to abide and uphold the final majority decision of the board.
 - D. To remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the board, and to conduct my relationships with school staff, the local citizenry, and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOARD MEMBERS (Cont.)

- E. To resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school district.
- F. To recognize that it is as important for the board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as it is to plan the business of school operation.
- G. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the board is to establish the policies by which schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the conduct of school matters will be left to the employed superintendent of schools and professional and non-professional staff.
- H. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by the citizens of the community.
- I. To support my State and National School Board Associations.
- J. As an organized group, plan goals and objectives for each school year to improve the educational program of the district.
- K. To graciously accept the fact that a vote of confidence will automatically be taken to determine if I have abandoned my position on the board due to my being absent from four (4) consecutive regular board meetings.