

BC—Board Member Conduct

As a member of the Board of Directors, representing all the citizens of my School, I recognize:

- That my fellow citizens have entrusted me with the educational development of the children and youth of the community;
- That the public expects my first and greatest concern to be in the best interests of each and every one of these young people without distinction as to whom they are or what their background may be;
- That the future welfare of this community, of this state, and of this nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide to fit the needs of every learner;
- 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 their school, to the end that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, staff and facilities;
- That legally the authority of the Board is derived from the state which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the Board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy; and
- That I must never neglect my personal obligations 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 education in the United States is kept free and strong.

In view of the foregoing consideration, it shall be my constant endeavor:

- 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;
- 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;
- To base my personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation; to vote my honest conviction in every case not swayed by partisan bias of any kind; and therefore abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board;
- 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 the school staff, local citizenry and all media of communication on the basis of this fact;
- 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 in the school;
- To contribute to, and maintain the professional atmosphere of, personal relations in the School by voicing concerns regarding school employees only to the Administrator;

White Pine Charter School Policy Manual

Adopted: 16 January 2013

Revised: _____

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- To bear in mind under all circumstances, that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the school is to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the Administrator and the professional and support staff;
- To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations and the communications media in the system with respect to establishing policy on current school operations and proposed future developments; and,
- To strive, step by step, toward ideal conditions for most effective Board service to my community in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.