

DESIRED ATTRIBUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

- Leads by example and acts as an advocate for the schools and for children
- Base decisions on the available facts and independent judgments, and refuses to surrender judgments to individuals or special interest groups
- Take no private action that will compromise the school system, the board, or the administration, and avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest
- Support and protect the civil and human rights of all members of the school community
- Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged
- Keep an open mind to evaluate new concepts for improvements
- Listen objectively to constructive criticism
- Know the difference between personal influence and factual persuasion
- Learn and practice the art of compromise
- Be well trained in conflict resolution and parliamentary procedure
- Don't avoid confrontation merely to improve chances for re-election
- Share the responsibility for all board decisions, regardless of how voted
- Strive for teamwork
- Do not undermine the authority of the superintendent or intrude into the spheres of responsibility that properly belong to the school administration
- Maintain a sense of humor
- Do homework, devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions