CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Be it resolved by the School Board of the Salem, New Hampshire School District that the following is a “Code of Ethics for the School Board of the School District of Salem.”

The purpose of this Code is to establish ethical standards of conduct for School Board members of the School District of Salem, New Hampshire and assert a solemn belief that the primary responsibility for maintaining a high level of ethics among School District officials and employees falls upon the School Board as the governing body elected by the people.

It is the duty of a School Board member to strive to improve public education and to that end board members will:

- Remember always that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools
- Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings
- Recognize that the board should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings
- Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups
- Encourage the free expressions of opinion by all board members and seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff, and all elements of the community; recognizing the need to collaborate at all times with the school district’s leadership team
- Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent
- Communicate to other board members and the superintendent expression of public reaction to board policies and school programs
- Remain informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the state and national schools boards association
- Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff
- Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest
- Take no private action that will compromise the board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law
- Remember always it is the board’s duty to work in harmony with the school district’s leadership team by refraining from interaction with other school district employees that would undermine the responsibilities of the administration

Revised 8/24/04