

Policies

Newport Public Schools Philosophy - Ethical Pledge

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The Newport School Committee also endorses the Code of Ethics of the National School Boards Association and each of its members agrees to abide by the following standards:

As a member of the Newport School Committee, representing all the citizens of my school 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 in the best interest of each one of those young people without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
- (c) That the future welfare of this community, of this State, and of the Nation depends in large measure upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.
- (d) That my fellow committee 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 schools, to the end that they shall readily provide the finest possible school program, school staff and school facilities.
- (e) That legally the authority of the School Committee 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 School Committee 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 the public schools in the United States of America are kept free and strong.

Accordingly:

1. I shall endeavor to attend all regularly scheduled school committee meetings and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
2. I will endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held committee meetings;

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3. I will render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
4. I will encourage the free expression of opinion by all committee members, and seek systematic communications among the committee and students, staff and all elements of the community;
5. I will work with other committee members to establish effective school committee policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
6. I will communicate to other committee members and the superintendent expressions of public reaction to committee policies and school programs;
7. I will inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards associations;
8. I will support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
9. I will avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my committee position for personal or partisan gain;
10. I will take no private action that shall compromise the committee or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;
11. I will remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending Newport Public Schools.

History: BBAA, 1978; BBF, 1978

1.5. Bylaws