

CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics signifies the strong commitment on the part of the School Board to base decisions and actions on ethical standards. It recognizes the role of professional behavior necessary to fulfill the obligation of being effective and responsible Board members.

While serving as a member of the Watertown School Board, I will:

1. View service on a School Board as an opportunity to serve my community, state and nation because I believe public education is the best means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve self- government.
2. Work unremittingly to help the people in my community understand the importance of public education and willingly support the level of education desired by the community.
3. Make decisions in terms of the best interests of the educational welfare of children. I will seek to provide an educational opportunity equally open to all children regardless of ability, race, creed, socio-economic status, or location of residence.
4. Recognize that my responsibility is not to run the schools but to see that they are well run. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning and appraisal.
5. Avoid conflict of interest by refusing to represent special interests or partisan policies or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends or supporters.
6. Be fair, honest, and professional in all school-related conversations and decisions.
7. Arrive at conclusions only after I have discussed matters fully with members of the professional staff and Board members. I will graciously support decisions reached by a majority of the Board at an assembled meeting.

8. Recognize that authority rests with the whole Board assembled in meeting and that I have no legal status to bind the Board outside a meeting.
9. Support and protect school personnel in performance of their duties. I will vote to hire only competent and trained, technical and professional personnel who have been properly recommended by the appropriate administrative officer.
10. Refer all complaints, to the appropriate administrative officer and only after failure of administrative solution will I discuss such matters at a Board meeting.
11. Observe and enforce State laws and regulations pertaining to public education.